

Gc
977.2
H62ic
no.16
1414518

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

GEN

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 02408 4144

DECATUR COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Greensburg, Ind.



(In the final publication an enlarged picture, 5 x 7,
will appear here.)

INVENTORY OF COUNTY ARCHIVES

OF INDIANA

Prepared by

The Historical Records Survey
Division of Women's and Professional Projects
Works Progress Administration

NO. 16. DECATUR COUNTY (GREENSBURG)

W. P. A.

*

Indianapolis, Indiana

The Historical Records Survey

September 1937



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

<https://archive.org/details/inventoryofcount1619hist>

This inventory of Decatur County records constitutes a part of a general guide to the county archives of Indiana. It has been prepared by the Historical Records Survey of this state, operating as a separate project under the Works Progress Administration.

The survey of state and local historical records in Indiana was instituted on February 19, 1936, as part of a nation-wide undertaking under the supervision of Dr. Luther H. Evans. Samuel J. Kagan, state archivist of the Indiana History and Archives Division of the State Library, was assigned to lead the project as State Director. In the beginning the Survey was closely associated with the Writers' Project. On September 23, 1936, the Historical Records Survey was nominally as well as factually made independent of the Writers' Project. In general, it has from its inception acted as a separate and independent unit of Federal Project No. 1.

have The aim and purpose of the survey of county records in Indiana has been to furnish the officials of the local, state, and national governments, students of history, lawyers, and genealogists, and the general citizenry interested in the county records, with a convenient tool for use in consulting them. It is the object of the Survey to make the valuable source materials that are to be found in the Indiana courthouse and other public buildings, available and more accessible to those who may be in need of them. It is our hope that the information contained in this inventory will arouse greater interest in state and local historical records and will encourage

officials to continue the improvement of methods for the preservation and safekeeping of these records.

The field work of the survey of Decatur County was begun on May 9, 1936, under the district supervision of Norbert Meyers, later succeeded by Miss Elizabeth Howe, of New Albany. The field workers were Clem Montgomery, of Saint Paul; Edelle Pebbles, of Franklin; and Virgil Wiley, of Greensburg. It was completed on July 8, 1936. Many visits, however, have since been made to the county courthouse to check and recheck the information contained herein, the final recheck having been made in July 1937.

There are ninety-two counties in Indiana. When the survey of the county archives is completed a separate volume is to be devoted to each county inventory in the state. Decatur County is No. 16.

The inventory proper is preceded by a number of introductory sections to enlighten the reader concerning facts and events forming the background and basis of the records. The entries for the record series are carried in consecutive numbering for the county. The bureaus are arranged in functional order: Governing boards; major administrative offices; judicial offices; and financial, educational, health, engineering, and other groups. Wherever applicable, natural groupings under separate headings are made within the bureau, and the entries are arranged thereunder also according to their functional sequence. A full and extensive

Preface

index following the inventory will help the reader locate records with a minimum of inconvenience and effort.

The editing of this inventory has been conducted by an editorial staff of some forty men and women, whose labors we deeply appreciate and wish to recognize forthwith, captained by Harry A. Rider, editor; John R Milligan in charge of accession and classifying; Lousie Nation in charge of checking; Canis E. Brockway in charge of condensing; Julius Salman, legal adviser; and Howard G. Underwood, historical reseach editor.

The original survey was made in the field under the direction of the State Director and carefully checked and compiled in the form of this inventory in the State Office. Of the industrious and painstaking devotion to his task of each and every person who had a part in the Survey we are keenly aware, and we regret that we cannot commend by name the services of all who have contributed to the publication of this volume.

The Survey is indebted to county officials; to the State Works Progress Administration; to Kenneth E. Lancet, Acting Director of Women's and Professional Projects, who has rendered the Survey a great personal service in the administering of the project; and to Dr. Christopher B. Coleman, who has taken personal initiative and interest in behalf of the Survey in giving technical advice to the project.

S. J. Kagan, State Director

The Historical Records Survey

FOREWORD

A guide to county and township records in Indiana has long been needed by both local officials and the general public. The Works Progress Administration project called the Historical Records Survey is the first attempt to supply this need. Few more useful fields of employment could have been found than the survey of local and state historical records, even though the work inevitably presented unusual difficulties. The completion of the survey of historical records in Indiana is a source of genuine satisfaction.

We are indebted first of all to the Works Progress Administration for providing for the survey and financing it. The National Director of the project, Dr. Luther H. Evans, assured a fruitful product of the work by ably outlining it and drafting the forms to be used by the field workers so as to insure the greatest completeness with the least likelihood of errors. He and his assistants have done all that was possible for this nation-wide survey. Samuel J. Kagan, State Director of Indiana, deserves great credit for his energy and ability in organizing the office and field forces which have carried out the project. To assemble and organize more than one hundred and fifty persons in a new line of work in which there were very few local precedents, and to complete a survey of the county records in all the ninety-two counties, including the townships, at first, seemed almost impossible of accomplishment within a year. It has, however, been accomplished.

An advisory committee has helped guide work upon the project; though no meetings were held, its members in many instances were a great help. A word of appreciation must be recorded here for the county officers who courteously gave the representatives of the survey access to the records in their offices and cooperated in the making of the survey. Especially is the state indebted to those officers who made possible the photographing of old records for preservation in a central depository.

CHRISTOPHER B. COLEMAN

Director, Indiana Historical Bureau
and

Chairman, Advisory Committee
Historical Records Survey.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part A. Decatur County and its Records System

1. Historical Sketch	4
Map of Decatur County.	
2. Governmental Organization and Records System	12
Chart of Decatur County Governmental Organization.	
3. Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records	26
Floor Plans of Courthouse.	
4. Abbreviations, Symbols, and Explanatory Notes	38

Part B. County Offices and their Records

I. County Commissioners	45
Court proceedings and reports: Bond issues, Requisitions, bids, and contracts, Claims and allowances, Roads, bridges, and ditches.	
II. County Council	50
III. Clerk	52
Elections: Votes. Official bonds: County, Township. Licenses: Marriage, Professional, Business. Certificates. Register. Receipts and disbursements.	
IV. Prosecuting Attorney	59
V. Circuit Court	60
Civil and criminal causes: Court proceedings, Executions. Probate causes: Proceedings in probate causes. Fee and cash records.	
VI. Common Pleas Court	77
Civil and criminal causes: Court proceedings.	
VII. Recorder	79
Deeds, titles, and grants. Mortgages and releases: Real estate, Chattels, School funds, Assignments and releases. Liens. Register of legal instruments. Miscellaneous records. Fee and cash books. Maps.	

VIII.	Sheriff	86
	Executions and reports. Fee and cash books.	
IX.	Coroner	91
X.	Auditor	93
	Audits and reports. Receipts and disbursements.	
	Taxes: Appraisements, Returns, Lists, Delinquents,	
	Plat books. School funds.	
XI.	Assessor	102
	Maps.	
XII.	Board of Review	104
XIII.	Board of Tax Adjustment	106
XIV.	Board of Finance	108
XV.	School Fund Board	110
XVI.	Treasurer	111
	Tax collections. Receipts and disbursements.	
	Maps.	
XVII.	Election Boards	115
XVIII.	Board of Education	117
XIX.	Superintendent of Schools	119
	Activities and reports.	
XX.	Health Officer	121
	Vital statistics.	
XXI.	Board of Public Welfare	124
XXII.	Surveyor	128
XXIII.	Highway Supervisor	130
	Maps.	
XXIV.	Agricultural Agent	132
	Reports.	

Map of Decatur County to appear here.

PART A. DECATUR COUNTY AND ITS RECORDS SYSTEM

1. HISTORICAL SKETCH

A line drawn from the Statehouse in Indianapolis to the southeast corner of the state bisects Decatur County, which lies halfway between those points. It is bounded on the north by Rush County, on the east by Franklin County, on the south by Jennings and Ripley Counties, and on the west by Shelby and Bartholomew Counties. Its seven-sided area contains 372 squares miles.

The southern part of this county alternates with hill and swale, leveling out towards the north and east. Several small streams flow in a southwesterly direction. The soil is more productive in the northern part where crops suitable to the climate are raised, while the clay of the southern section produces chiefly grass and wheat.

The events leading up to the settlement and organization of Decatur County, as elsewhere throughout the country, commenced in 1607 with the landing of the English at Jamestown. The next year a small colony of Frenchmen founded Quebec. Trading with the Indians as they came, they then began the exploration of New France, as they called the land from the Atlantic to a thousand miles westward. The English, more intent on settlement, meanwhile reached the Mississippi River after LaSalle had claimed the entire valley in the name of France. Since the second decade of the eighteenth century French trading posts had flourished where Fort Wayne and Vincennes now stand. Rivalry between these two peoples led to what is known

as the French and Indian War, ending in the Treaty of Paris, February 10, 1763. In this treaty the lands that comprise Indiana came under the British flag, but the King, in London, forbade settlement west of the Alleghenies. British sovereignty was shortlived. The Revolutionary War soon opened, and Virginia sent her indomitable Indian fighter, George Rogers Clark, to wrest the western forts from the British. In 1784, before the task was completed, Virginia claimed this territory by right of her royal charter, and named it Illinois County. After the war, rival claims of several states caused the cession of the entire region north and west of the Ohio River to the Federal Government. In 1787 Congress passed the famous Ordinance for its government and changed the name to Northwest Territory. From this territory Indiana was organized as a territory in 1800, and sixteen years later took her place in the Union.

At that time, what is now Decatur County was a wilderness. The area then did not even belong to the nation or the state legally, since the government still acknowledged the title of the Indians. Little is known of Indian life within the confines of the present county. They doubtless hunted through the region, but no villages are reported nor skirmishes with the few whites who may have wandered in. This land was included in that huge tract, extending north beyond the Wabash River and known as the New Purchase, obtained in the Treaty of St. Marys, October 2-6, 1818. After a waiting period of two years the land was opened to settlement.

A few pioneers, however, did not wait until settlement was

authorized but came in as squatters, hoping later to buy their chosen sites. John Fugit is credited as being the first to settle here. He came in February 1819 with his son to build a cabin for the family. He stopped in present Fugit Township and later took an active part in county organization. This land was surveyed in 1820, upon order of the Federal Government, by Thomas Hendricks, Samuel Hueston, and four assistants. That same year it was offered for sale at the Brookville land office.

The first legal entry was made by John Shellhorn (also spelled Shelhorn and Sheldon), his patent being dated October 3, 1820, for the site where Rockville was subsequently laid out. At this time the westward movement of expectant freeholders was in full swing and by the end of 1820 forty-eight claims had been staked in present Fugit Township alone, and forty-five elsewhere in what was soon to be Decatur County. These first settlers were characterized as hardy Scotch-Irish stock admirably suited for the most part to struggle with nature in building their homes and establishing civilization.

On December 31, 1821, the state legislature formed Decatur County from the improvised county of Delaware. The name was given in honor of Commodore Stephen Decatur (1779-1820), the American naval officer, commanding in 1815 the expedition against the Dey of Algiers which resulted in the renunciation by the Barbary pirates of all claims to tribute from the United States. He was also the hero of the surprise attack in 1804 in the harbor of Tripoli when the frigate Philadelphia, which had fallen into the

hands of the enemy, was burned by the Americans.

The boundaries which have not since been changed, were as follows: "Beginning at the south-west corner of section eighteen in township eight north of range eight east of the second principal meridian, thence north fifteen miles to the south-west [/north-west/] corner of section six, in township ten north of range eight east, thence east three miles to the south-east corner of section thirty-three in township eleven north of range eight east, thence north seven miles to the northwest corner of section thirty-four in township twelve north of range eight east, thence east eighteen miles to the west boundary of Franklin county, thence south with said boundary to the north line of Ripley county, thence with the old boundary line to the north line of Jennings County, thence west with the Jennings county line to the place of beginning."

The error in description, indicated by brackets above, was corrected by an act of January 24, 1828. (1)

The date of organization of the county, as given in the act, is March 4, 1822. The governor appointed Henry H. Talbott clerk and William Ross, sheriff, until an election could be held.

In the first election, May 14, 1822, the following officers were chosen: Henry H. Talbott, then a minor, clerk and recorder; John Fugit, associate judge; Seth Lowe, William Parks, and William Harbord, county commissioners. At it first meeting the board of commissioners appointed John Hopkins treasurer and John B. Potter, county agent, and at its second meeting, Thomas Hendricks, surveyor.

Talbott continuously filled the office of recorder until 1859 and the office of clerk until 1863. Thomas Hendricks was a brother of William Hendricks, the second Governor of Indiana, and an uncle of Thomas A. Hendricks--United States Senator (1863-69), Governor of Indiana (1873-77), and Vice President of the United States (1885-89).

On June 14, 1822, Greensburg, named by Mrs. Thomas Hendricks for her former home of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, was selected as the county seat. Sixty acres of this site were donated by Thomas Hendricks and one hundred acres by John Walker for county purposes.

The double log house of Thomas Hendricks in Greensburg was used for the first court and for the first meeting of the county commissioners. One historian reports that this residence was the seat of justice until 1825, while another states that a log courthouse was built in 1823. At any rate the first substantial and adequate courthouse was the two-story brick building erected in the public square, completed in May 1827. In 1854 this building was condemned and work on the present courthouse was commenced. Originally it was decided to spend not over \$30,000, but, with several changes in plans the total cost amounted to nearly \$120,000 by the time the building was completed several years later. Extensive remodeling was done in 1889-90, and certain repairs costing \$5,200 were made in 1903.

This old courthouse has a unique distinction--a tree growing on top of the clock tower. The phenomenon was first noticed in 1870. Since then several trees were seen and at the same time there were no less than seven in the '80's and when it was necessary to remove

the largest---it had become a question of tree or roof---it was found to be nine feet high and four inches in diameter. Eventually all have died or have been cut down: the one now attracting sight-seers was planted by a steeplo-jack in 1935.

The townships of Decatur County are Adams, Clay, Clinton, Fugit, Jackson, Marion, Salt Creek, Sand Creek, and Washington. The incorporated centers are Greensburg (city), Saint Paul, Milford, Millhausen, Newpoint, and Westport (towns).

Agriculture remains the leading occupation of the county with 67 percent of the 17,308 inhabitants (1930) residing in rural districts. A small amount of manufacturing is carried on in Greensburg. The most significant economic fact today is the relatively small sum of delinquent taxes which bears out the summary of a recent survey of Decatur County that "general conditions are very good."

-
- (1) Acts, 1821-22, pp. 57-58,
1827-28, p. 13.

SOURCES

LEWIS A. HARDING, editor. History of Decatur County, Indiana. (B.F. Bowen & Co., Indianapolis, 1915.)

Historical Sketches of Fugit Township. (1901.)

Leading Industries of the Principal Places in Decatur, Bartholomew, Jackson, and Lawrence Counties, Indiana. (1885)

Indiana Magazine of History. (Vol. X).

Indianapolis News. October 13, 1917. (p. 1st 2nd, c. 2.)

U. S. Census, 1930.

Field Report of Historical Records Survey, 1936.

Field Report of State Planning Board, 1936.

Chart of Governmental Organization to appear here.

2. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

Decatur County, with its county seat at Greensburg, is a subdivision of the State of Indiana for administrative, judicial, and political purposes. It is a creature of the legislature and possesses only such powers of local government as are conferred by acts of the legislature or are incident and necessary to carry out the provisions thereof. Created by the state, the county is subject to legislative control at any time and its powers may be amplified, or diminished without its consent.

Decatur County was organized by an act of the General Assembly, effective March 4, 1822. (1) Its present government, as it functions today, is the result of its development under the original Constitution of 1816, the present Constitution adopted in 1851, and more than a century of legislative action.

The county system of government is an inheritance from England and the American Colonies, whence pioneers in Indiana brought their customs and laws. Its beginnings in Indiana are found in the laws of the Northwest Territory, which recognized the counties already established, and provided for courts and administrative officers, as follows: General court of quarter sessions of the peace, county court of common pleas, (2) and court of probate, (3) commissioners, (4) sheriff, (5) coroner, (6) recorder, (7) treasurer, (8) (circuit court). (9) These officers were appointed by either the governor or the court. The laws of Indiana Territory provided for the appointment of additional officers: Surveyor, (10) assessor, (11) prosecuting attorney, (12) and county agent who conveys and receives conveyances of public lands. (13)

In the year of 1816 Indiana was admitted to the Union and the constitution of that year provided for the election in each county of a clerk of the circuit court, (14) recorder, (15) sheriff and coroner, (16) and continued the other territorial officers until superseded. (17)

The legislature, in 1817, established a body called the board of commissioners, elected by the voters of the county; (18) the office of treasurer, who was appointed by the board of commissioners; (19) and in 1818 the office of surveyor, who was appointed and commissioned by the Governor of the state. (20)

In 1824, the board of commissioners was abolished, and its functions conferred upon the justices of the peace of the county, who constituted the board for doing county business, (21) until in 1831 the board of commissioners was reestablished, which consisted of three members elected by the voters. (22) When Decatur County was organized in 1822, its government followed the form outlined above. In 1831 the legislature made the surveyor an appointee of the board of commissioners, (23) and in 1841 created the elective office of auditor. (24) Otherwise the original organization continued practically unchanged for nearly thirty years.

As the state grew, there was much dissatisfaction with the Constitution of 1816, but repeated attempts to change it did not succeed until 1850, when a constitutional convention was called which framed a new constitution. (25) This constitution was submitted to the qualified voters of the state and adopted in 1851 and proclaimed by the governor to be effective on November 1, 1851,

and with amendments, remains the Constitution of Indiana. (26)

Each county is a political subdivision of the state and has an individual governmental organization. Although the Constitution of 1851 forbids special legislation, (27) and the general outline of the organization of county government remains the same, the general assembly has provided the necessary variations to take care of local needs and conditions. These variations lie chiefly in the number of officers and courts provided for counties within classifications based upon population. Urban and rural areas obviously cannot be ruled by the same number of officers. Each county has the constitutional officers, but the statutory officers vary in number, powers, and duties. The latter officers may be compulsory in all counties, or they may be optional and therefore established in only a few instances; others are authorized in only certain classes of counties, though the class may include only one county.

Indiana stands alone among the states of the Union in having a dual system of county governing boards, since the establishment in each county of a county council in 1899. (28) Each county is governed by a board of commissioners and a county council. The duties of these agencies, with technical distinction, are enumerated in their proper places below.

From the beginning of the present century a tendency toward centralization of power in the hands of state authorities has taken from county officials many of their powers and duties and has greatly lessened the scope of those remaining. In older fields of finance, roads, and education, the state's supervision has greatly increased,

and the creation of newer state departments such as police, food and fire inspection, and public welfare, has caused heavy removal of local responsibility and control.

Present Administration

The Constitution of 1851 reorganized the governmental structure, enlarging the number of constitutional officers to be elected by the people of the county, as follows: (29)

Clerk of the circuit court, who, by statutory provision, keeps the records of the proceedings of all county courts and performs other administrative duties, including serving as registration officer and member of the county election boards.

Recorder, who makes and preserves a public record of all legal documents, both official and private, as may be prescribed by law.

Sheriff, who is conservator of the peace and executes orders of the county courts and boards.

Coroner, who holds inquests in all cases of death by violence and of suspicious circumstances.

Treasurer, who receives and disburses all county moneys including the collection of taxes, and serves as ex-officio member of the board of review.

Auditor, who, the financial agent of the county, compiles the county budget estimates, prepares the tax duplicates and serves as clerk and member of several county boards.

Surveyor, who has charge of all surveying and civil engineering work of the county, including the maintenance of drainage systems. (30)

The constitution also empowered the legislature to prescribe such other officers as may become necessary. (31) Under this authority the legislature has from time to time established the following statutory officers and boards:

Board of commissioners, the leading governing body of the county, often called the "county board", or the "board for doing county business". It consists of three members elected for terms of three years. The board furnishes and maintains county buildings and grounds, administers the financial transactions of the county and audits the accounts of all officers who handle moneys of the county, and is responsible for the maintenance of county highways. (32)

County council, another governing body, created in 1899, (33) to control the finances of county governments. This council consists of seven members, elected for terms of four years. The council has power to fix the tax rate for county purposes and for all purposes where the rate is not fixed by law and is required to be uniform ~~th~~ throughout the county; to adopt the county budget and the exclusive right to make appropriations from the county treasury; and the exclusive power to authorize the borrowing of money and the issuing of bonds. (34)

Superintendent of schools, in 1873, (35) who has general superintendence of all schools of the county outside of incorporated cities and towns. (36) Elected by the township trustees, (37) he is ex-officio member and president of the county board of education. (38)

Board of education, in 1873, (39) consisting since an amendment of 1877, of the superintendent of schools, township trustees,

and the chairman of school trustees of each city and town of the county. The board considers the general wants and needs of the schools and school property, and all matters relating to the purchase of school furniture, books, maps, and charts. (40)

Health officer, in 1881, originally secretary of the board of health, (41) abolished by an act of 1909, which created the office of health commissioner, (42) whose title was changed in 1935 to health officer. He is appointed by the board of commissioners and must be legally qualified to practice medicine, and enforces the health laws of the state. (43)

Assessor, in 1891, (44) who instructs and advises the township assessors, reviews their returns and examines the tax duplicates, assesses omitted real and personal property, (45) and appraises estates for inheritance taxes. (46) He is elected by the voters of the county, (47) and is ex-officio member and president of the board of review. (48)

Board of review, in 1891, whose members are the county assessor, auditor, and treasurer, (49) and, by an amendment of 1919, two freeholders of opposite political parties, appointed by the judge of the circuit court. (50) This board equalizes tax assessments as between townships or other taxing units and between individual property owners, and may set aside the aggregate assessment, if too high or too low, of the whole county or any taxing unit thereof and order a new assessment. (51)

Board of finance, in 1907, consisting of the board of commissioners, with the auditor as secretary. (52) This board has the

custody of county funds and selects the depositories, (53) apportioning the deposits among the banks in agreement with other municipal corporations in the county according to the total resources of the depositories. (54)

Agricultural agent, in 1913, who, under the supervision of Purdue University, conducts farmers' institutes and other movements for the advancement of agriculture and county life, and aids the superintendent of schools and the teachers of the county in agricultural education and domestic science. He is appointed by the director of agricultural extension service of Purdue University, subject to the approval of the state board known as the county agricultural agent board. (55)

Highway supervisor, in 1933, who supervises, under the direction of the board of commissioners, the repair and maintenance of all county highways. The board of commissioners makes the appointment and may appoint the surveyor as highway supervisor. However, the board of commissioners of Decatur County has appointed an extra officer as highway supervisor. (56)

Board of tax adjustment, in 1933, consisting of seven members (57) who, by an amendment of 1937, are: One member of the county council, chosen by the council; the mayor of the largest city in the county or any public official of any city in the county, appointed by the mayor of the largest city of the county; one member of the county board of education, selected by such board; and four freeholders appointed by the judge of the circuit court. The board examines any tax levy and the corresponding items of the budget, . .

and adjusts the tax rate so that it shall not exceed, in any municipal corporation, the total tax rate prescribed by law. (58)

School fund board, in 1935, consisting of three members; the auditor and the clerk of the circuit court, ex-officio, and one member appointed by the judge of the circuit court. The board makes all loans from the common school and the congressional township school funds to owners of real estate, duly secured by mortgage. (59)

Department of public welfare, in 1936, (60) comprising the board of public welfare, consisting of five members appointed by the judge of the circuit court, (61) and the director of public welfare, appointed by the board. (62) The department administers the measures of public welfare as prescribed by law and the rules of the state department. (63)

Registration officer, in 1933, who is the clerk of the circuit court ex-officio. He conducts the registration of voters (64) and furnishes a list of the registered voters to the inspector of each precinct. (65)

Board of election commissioners, in 1889, consisting of the clerk of the circuit court and two persons appointed by him, of opposite political parties. The board prepares, prints, and distributes ballots for general elections (66) and appoints the precinct officials. (67)

Board of canvassers, in 1905, which is the board of election commissioners. (68) The board canvasses, tabulates, and compiles the election returns of the county (69) and certifies the candidates elected. (70)

Board of primary election commissioners, in 1915, consisting of the clerk of the circuit court and two persons appointed by him, of opposite political parties. The board prepares, prints, and distributes ballots for primary elections. (71)

Judicial

The judicial system of Decatur County, as of other Indiana counties, is prescribed by the constitution and subsequent acts of the Indiana General Assembly. The constitution authorized and directed that the state be divided into judicial circuits. (72) Decatur County constitutes the sixty-ninth circuit, established in 1919. (73) Previously, it was part of a judicial circuit to which other counties were attached. The constitution further provides for the election of a judge (74) and a prosecuting attorney for the circuit, (75) and a clerk of the circuit court. (76) The circuit court has original exclusive jurisdiction in all cases, criminal, civil, probate, and juvenile, except where exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction is conferred by law upon justices of the peace, and such appellate jurisdiction as is conferred by law. It also has jurisdiction of all other causes, matters, and proceedings where exclusive jurisdiction thereof is not conferred by law upon some other court or office. (77)

Records System

The records of Decatur County began with its creation in 1822.

(Two courthouses in Noble County were destroyed by fire--one at Augusta in 1843 and one at Albion in 1859. Most of the court records)

were destroyed in the latter fire.)

The establishment of each of the county offices and bureaux inaugurated their records which were kept in such fashion as the incumbents saw fit, following in the main the directions of the general assembly under the provisions for each respective office. In 1909, the legislature established the state board of accounts, which formulates, prescribes, and installs systems of accounting and reporting which are uniform for every public office of the same class. (78) Under this law some of the records were combined to eliminate separation, duplication, and overlapping. The board also permits the use of bound loose-leaf records in almost all cases where the records are typed. The quality of the paper and ink and the binding and rebinding practices are left to the judgment of the board of county commissioners, except that a good quality is required.

Whenever it may be necessary for the preservation of the records of any office, it is the duty of the board of commissioners to issue an order directing the officer in charge to copy and transcribe the records. 979)

In 1925 a law was passed permitting county officials, at their discretion, to turn over to the archives division of the state library for permanent preservation, any official books, records, documents, original papers, newspaper files, or printed books and material not in current use in their offices. (80) This law is optional and has been ineffectual. County officials are loath to part with records, even when no longer in use and in spite of lack of storage space, anticipating a possible call for them. Consequently, they have only

occasionally availed themselves of this provision for permanent preservation of their old records.

The recorder and other county officers, by an act of 1927, are authorized to record deeds, mortgages, and other instruments by any approved photographic process adopted by the board of commissioners. (81)

In 1937, the general assembly authorized the director of the state library, at his discretion, to make a copy, by photography or in any other way, of any official book, record, document, original paper, newspaper, or printed book or material in any county, city, or other public office, for preservation in the state archives. All public officials must permit copies to be made of the books, records, documents, and papers in their respective offices. (82)

-
- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Acts 1821-22, pp. 57-58 | (18) Acts 1816-17, ch. 15, sec. 1. |
| (2) Laws, Northwest Territory, Acts 1788, ch. 2, pp. 4, 7. | (19) Ibid., ch. 17, secs. 1-2. |
| (3) Ibid., ch. 3. | (20) Acts 1817-18, ch. 30, sec. 1. |
| (4) Ibid., Acts 1795, p. 201. | (21) Rev. Laws 1824, ch. 15, secs. 1, 11, 16-17. |
| (5) Ibid., Acts 1788, ch. 2, p. 8. | (22) Rev. Laws 1831, ch. 20, secs. 1, 12, 14. |
| (6) Ibid., Acts 1788, ch. 9, p. 24. | (23) Ibid., ch. 102, sec. 1. |
| (7) Ibid., Acts 1795, p. 197. | (24) Acts 1841, ch. 2, sec. 1. |
| (8) Ibid., Acts 1792, ch. 2, s sec. 8. | (25) Acts 1850, ch. 21, sec. 9. |
| (9) Ibid., Acts 1788, ch. 2, pp. 6-7; Acts 1795, pp. 156-57, sec. 9. | (26) Kettleborough, Charles. Constitution Making in Indiana. Vol. 1, p. 222. |
| (10) Laws, Indiana Territory, Acts 1802, p. 25, sec. 1. | (27) Const., art. 4, sec. 22. |
| (11) Ibid., Acts 1805, ch. 32, sec. 1. | (28) Acts 1899; Burns 26-501. |
| (12) Ibid., Acts 1810, ch. 10, sec. 5. | (29) Const., art. 6, sec. 2. |
| (13) Ibid., Acts 1813, ch. 10, sec. 2. | (30) For citations, see the legal status essays of these offices in Section B. |
| (14) Const. 1816, art. 5, sec. 8. | (31) Const., art. 6, sec. 3. |
| (15) Ibid., art. 11, sec. 10. | (32) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852, Acts 1929; Burns 26-601; 1 Rev. Stat. 1852, Acts 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 26-620; Acts 1919; Burns 36-301. |
| (16) Ibid., art. 4, sec. 25. | (33) Acts 1899; Burns 26-501. |
| (17) Ibid., art. 12, sec. 3. | (34) Acts 1899; Burns 26-515, |

- 26-520; Acts 1899, 1921, 1929; Burns 26-532.
- (35) Acts 1873, ch. 25, sec. 2.
- (36) Acts 1899; Burns 28-704.
- (37) Acts 1899, 1911, 1923; Burns 28-702.
- (38) Acts 1873, 1877; Burns 28-801.
- (39) Acts 1873, ch. 25, sec. 3.
- (40) Acts 1873, 1877; Burns 28-801.
- (41) Rev. Stat. 1881, sec. 4993.
- (42) Acts 1891, 1909; Burns 35-108.
- (43) Acts 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 35-118.
- (44) Acts 1891, ch. 99, sec. 112.
- (45) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1102.
- (46) Acts 1931, 1933; Burns 6-2408.
- (47) Acts 1919, 1921; Burns 64-1101.
- (48) Acts 1919, 1920 (Spec. Sess.); Burns 64-1201.
- (49) Acts 1891, ch. 99, sec. 114.
- (50) Acts 1919, 1920 (Spec. Sess.); Burns 64-1201.
- (51) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1205.
- (52) Acts 1907; Burns 61-606; Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 61-629.
- (53) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 61-636.
- (54) Ibid., 61-635.
- (55) Acts 1913, 1923, 1927, 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 28-4911.
- (56) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1103, 36-1110.
- (57) Acts 1933; Burns 64-304.
- (58) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 64-310.
- (59) Acts 1865, 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 28-209.
- (60) Acts 1936 (Spec. Sess.); Burns, 1937 suppl., 52-1117.
- (61) Ibid., 52-1118.
- (62) Ibid., 52-1119.
- (63) Ibid., 52-1120.
- (64) Acts 1933, 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 29-306.
- (65) Acts 1933, 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 29-317.
- (66) Acts 1889; Burns 29-1002.
- (67) Acts 1929, 1933; Burns 29-304, Acts 1929; Burns 29-305, 29-306, 29-307.
- (68) Acts 1905, 1927; Burns 29-1401.
- (69) Acts 1905; Burns 29-1404.
- (70) Ibid., 29-1405.
- (71) Acts 1915, 1917; Burns 29-504.
- (72) Const., art. 7, sec. 9.
- (73) Acts 1919, 1927; Burns 4-332.
- (74) Const., art. 7, sec. 9; Acts 1881; Burns 4-301.
- (75) Ibid., sec. 11; 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2501.
- (76) Ibid., art. 6, sec. 2; 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2701.
- (77) Acts 1881 (Spec. Sess.) Burns 4-303.
- (78) Acts 1909; Burns 60-202, 60-224.
- (79) Acts 1877; Burns 26-634.
- (80) Acts 1925, 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 63-830.
- (81) Acts 1927; Burns 49-3207.
- (82) Acts 1925, 1937; Burns 1937 suppl., 63-830.

SOURCES

BURNS, HARRISON, editor. Annotated. Indiana statutes containing all actions of a general and public nature in force. Sept. 1, 1933. 21 vols. with Suppl. 1937 in pocket in back cover. (The Bobbs-Merrill Company. Indianapolis, Indiana, 1933 and 1934)

The year is given in references only in citations to supplement. Numbers refer to sections which run in one continuous, consecutive series as explained in Burns 1:iii-iv.

FEIGHTER, HAROLD C. Indiana county government. (402 pp. Historical Bulletin, Historical Bureau, March 1932.)

KETTLEBOROUGH, CHARLES. Constitution making in Indiana. 3 vols. (Vol. 1 and 2 Indiana Historical Commission. Indianapolis, 1916. Vol. 3. Historical Bureau. Indianapolis, 1930.)

Laws of Indiana Territory, The: 1801-1809. Edited by Francis S. Philbrick. Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library: Vol. 21. Reprinted with supplementary Indiana material. (741 pp. Historical Bureau. Indianapolis, 1931.)

Laws of Indiana Territory, The: 1809-1816. Edited by Louis B. Ewbank and Dorothy E. Riker. (932 pp. Indianapolis, Indiana. Historical Bureau. 1934.)

Laws of the Northwest Territory, The: 1788-1800. Edited by Theodore Calvin Pease. Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library Law Series: Vol. 1. (591 pp. Trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library. Springfield, Illinois, 1925.)

MONKS, LEANDER J., editor. Courts and lawyers of Indiana. 3 vols. (1457 pp. Federal Publishing Co., Inc. Indianapolis, 1916.)

SIKES, PRESSLY S. State Government of Indiana, The (12 pp. Principia Press, Inc. Bloomington, Ind., 1937.)

SNIDER, CLYDE FRANK, County and township government in Indiana. (18 pp. Urbana, Ill., 1936.)

SNIDER, CLYDE FRANK, Indiana Counties and townships. (Indiana Magazine of history. June 1937, 33:119-152.)

SNIDER, CLYDE FRANK, Organization and function of county boards in Indiana, The. (Indiana Law Journal, April 1937, 12:281-315.)

SNIDER, CLYDE FRANK, and SAFFEBFELD, MAX M. County and township government in Indiana. (Report of the Indiana State Committee on Governmental Economy. pp. 99-120, 176-181.)

THORNTON, W. W. A Manual of practice before county commissioners including the powers and duties of county officers in Indiana. 2 vols. (2089 pp. Indianapolis. The Bobbs-Merrill Co. c1925)

Also the Session Laws of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, 1816-1937.

Floor plans of first floor to appear here.

3. HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECORDS

Decatur County courthouse, situated on a public square bounded by Main, Franklin, Broadway, and Washington Streets in Greensburg, is a brick and limestone structure which was built in 1890. It extends 145' in length, 70' in width, and 30' in height, and is surmounted by a square clock tower, rising above the main entrance. Two storage rooms for records are located in the basement; the offices of the clerk, the recorder, the sheriff, the treasurer, the auditor, and the department of public welfare are located on the first floor; and the offices of the assessor, the superintendent of schools, the surveyor, and highway maintenance are located on the second floor.

Board of Commissioners

Records of the commissioners are housed in the auditor's office and vault, and the west basement storage room (q.v., infra).

County Council

All the records of the council are housed in the auditor's office (q.v., infra).

Clerk of the Circuit Court

The clerk's office and record room, on the southeast corner of the first floor, are 25' by 20' by 16' and 28' by 15' by 16' respectively. Both have linoleum covered wooden floors and

Floor plans of second floor to appear here.

plastered walls and ceilings, and both are well lighted and well ventilated. Four feet of bound volumes and 202' of unbound records in file boxes 10" deep are housed here. The shelving is filled, and only small space is available for additional shelving. In the record room are 168' of bound volumes and 220' of unbound records in file boxes 10" deep. No space at all can be obtained here for future records. The office houses 48% each of the records of the clerk and the circuit court, 76% of the records of the common pleas court, 75% of the coroner's records, and 2% of the sheriff's records; the record room, 20% of the clerk's records and 37% of the records of the circuit court. Adequate accommodations are provided in both office and record room for users of the records. The other 32% of the clerk's records are housed in the east basement storage room.

Recorder

The recorder occupies an office and record room on the northwest corner of the first floor. The rooms are alike in construction, having wooden floors, plastered walls, and plastered ceilings, and in condition, being well lighted and well ventilated. Measuring 20' by 16' by 14', the office houses 30' of bound volumes. Additional shelving, for which space is available, is needed, as the present shelving is inadequate for the proper housing of the records. The shelving in the record room is likewise wholly occupied by 68' of bound volumes, but only small space is available here for additional shelving. Satisfactory accommodations

Floor plans of basement to appear here.

are provided for users of the records in both office and vault. Of the recorder's records, 48% are housed in his office, 51% in his vault, 2% in the west storage room, and 1% in the east storage room.

Circuit Court

Records of the circuit court are housed in the clerk's office and vault, and the east storage room (q.v.: clerk, supra; storage room, infra).

Common Pleas Court

The common pleas court records are housed in the clerk's office and the east storage room (q.v.: clerk, supra; storage room, infra).

Sheriff

The sheriff has two offices -- one in the courthouse on the north side of the first floor, and one in the county jail. The courthouse office is 18' by 16' by 14'; it has a wooden floor, and plastered walls and ceiling and is well lighted and well ventilated. Ninety-four per cent of the sheriff's records -- 12' of bound volumes -- are housed here. No space is left on the present shelving, but additional shelving can be installed. Users of the records are furnished with fair accommodations. (No details on the jail office, in which are 2% of the sheriff's records, have been obtained thus far.) Of the other 4% of the

sheriff's records, half are housed in the clerk's office and half in the east basement storage room.

Coroner

The coroner's office is located on the second floor of the Union Trust Building in Greensburg. The office is 12' by 8' by 12' and is in good condition. One foot of bound volumes -- 25% of the coroner's records -- are arranged on a desk. The other 75% are in the clerk's office.

Assessor

The assessor's office and record room, on the northwest corner of the second floor, measure 21' by 18' by 14' and 12' by 7' by 14' respectively. Office and record room have wooden floors -- covered with linoleum in the office -- and plastered walls and ceilings, and are well lighted and well ventilated. The office is equipped with 12' of wooden shelving, occupied by bound volumes. Ample space is available for additional shelving. Thirty-two feet of bound volumes are housed in the record room, the same conditions prevailing here as in the office. Persons consulting the records in these rooms are well accommodated. No assessor's records are housed here, but 7% of the auditor's records are housed in the office and 15% in the record room. The assessor's records are in the west storage room (q.v., infra).

Board of Review

The records of the board of review are kept in the auditor's office (q.v., infra).

Board of Tax Adjustment

All board of tax adjustment records are housed in the auditor's office (q.v., infra).

Board of Finance

Records of the board of finance are in the auditor's office (q.v., infra).

Treasurer

An office and record room on the northwest corner of the first floor are occupied by the treasurer. The office is 15' square with a 14' ceiling; the record room is 20' by 6' by 14'. Having wooden floors and plastered walls and ceilings, both rooms are in good condition and are well lighted and well ventilated. In the office wooden shelving houses 21' of bound volumes and 2' of unbound records in file boxes 10" deep, permitting expansion. The record room contains 65' of shelving, occupied by a portion of 10' of bound volumes and 65' of unbound records in file boxes 10" deep, the excess being stacked on the floor. No space can be obtained for additional shelving. Satisfactory accommodations are provided in both rooms for users of the records,

11% of which are housed in the office and 38% in the vault. Fifty-one per cent of the treasurer's records are housed in the west storage room.

Auditor

On the southwest corner of the first floor are the auditor's office and second room, the former of which measures 24' by 18' by 14', while the latter measures 27' by 14' by 14'. Having wooden floors covered with linoleum, plastered walls, and plastered ceilings, these rooms are in good condition and are well lighted and well ventilated. Woodon and steel shelving in the office is only partially occupied by 67' of bound volumes; ample space is left on the present shelving. The 280' of unbound records are housed in a filing cabinet. These comprise 14% of the auditor's records, 94% of the commissioners' records, and all the records of the council, the board of review, the board of tax adjustment, and the board of finance. Shelving in the office houses 126' of bound volumes and 164' of unbound records in file boxes 11" deep; the shelving is filled, but additional shelving can be installed. Here are kept 1% of the auditor's and 4% of the commissioners' records. Good accommodations for users of the records are provided in both rooms. Seven per cent of the auditor's records are housed in the assessor's office, 15% in the assessor's record room, 43% in the east storage room, and 20% in the west storage room.

Superintendent of Schools

The office of the superintendent of schools, on the north side of the second floor, adjoins the assessor's vault to the east. Measuring 24' by 14' by 15', it has a wooden floor and plastered walls and ceilings; it is well lighted and well ventilated and provides users of the records with satisfactory accommodations. All the records of the superintendent of schools, comprising 2' of bound and 1' of unbound records, are housed in a steel cabinet, in which ample space for expansion can be obtained.

Health Officer

The health officer's office is located at present in the professional office of the incumbent, Dr. C. A. Porter, at his residence in Westport. The office is 16' by 12' by 7', and is in good condition. Three feet of bound volumes -- all the records of the health officer -- are stacked on the floor, as no shelving is available.

Department of Public Welfare

The office of the department of public welfare is directly to the rear of the sheriff's office on the north side of the first floor, and access to the office can only be obtained through the sheriff's office. The welfare office has a wooden floor covered with linoleum, and plastered walls and ceiling, and is well lighted and well ventilated. Here 1' of bound

volumes and 3' of unbound records in file boxes 12" deep are kept. Adequate accommodations for users of the records are provided in this room, which houses all the records of the department of public welfare.

1414518

Surveyor

All the surveyor's records are housed in the west storage room in the basement (q.v., infra).

Highway Maintenance

The duties of the highway supervisor are administered ex officio by the surveyor, as no highway supervisor has been appointed. The highway office, on the southwest corner of the second floor, is a well lighted, well ventilated room, which measures 20' by 14' by 15', and has a wooden floor, plastered walls, and a plastered ceiling. Six feet of shelving in a steel cabinet are occupied by bound volumes, but space is available for additional shelving. Satisfactory accommodations are provided for users of the records.

Agricultural Agent

The offices of the agricultural agent and his assistant, the home demonstration agent, are located in the Greensburg Post Office Building -- the agricultural agent on the northeast corner of the first floor, and the home demonstration agent on the third floor. The office of the agricultural agent is 14' by

12' by 10'; that of the home demonstration agent, 16' by 10' by 10'. Both have wooden floors and plastered walls and ceilings, and lighting and ventilation in both are good. In the agricultural agent's office are 1' of bound volumes and 4' of unbound records in a filing cabinet -- those comprising 60% of the records. The other 40%, consisting of 1' of bound volumes and 3' of unbound records in a filing cabinet, are in the home demonstration agent's office. No additional equipment is needed in either office for the proper housing of the records. Users of the records are furnished with adequate accommodations in both offices.

Storage Room

In the basement of the courthouse are two rooms -- the east and west storage rooms -- which house the old records of the county offices. The west storage room, which is 16' by 10' by 8', has concrete floor and walls and a wooden ceiling. It is fairly well lighted, but poorly ventilated and rather damp. Wooden shelving -- 650' around the walls -- is entirely occupied by bound volumes, but space is available for more shelving. All the records of the assessor and the surveyor, 51% of the treasurer's records, 20% of the auditor's records, and 2% each of the records of the commissioners and the recorder are housed here.

The east storage room, the dimensions of which are 14' by 12' by 8', is otherwise similar to the west storage room. Eight hundred feet of bound volumes occupy the wooden shelving, but

here, as in the west storage room, space can be obtained for additional shelving. It houses 43% of the auditor's records, 32% of the clerk's records, 15% of the records of the circuit court, 24% of the records of the common pleas court, 2% of the sheriff's records, and 1% of the recorder's records. Both rooms are equipped with satisfactory accommodations for users of the records.

Review

A lack of space for the proper housing of the records is evident in the offices and record room of the clerk and the treasurer. More space is not directly available, but, if another storage room were constructed the problem would be solved. Space for such a room can be obtained in the basement, and this expedient is recommended by the Historical Records Survey.

Before this is undertaken, however, it would be advisable to improve conditions in the two present storage rooms. These conditions -- ventilation, dampness, and an adequate amount of shelving -- have been described before. In addition, shelving is needed in the offices of the sheriff and the assessor, and the record rooms of the assessor and the auditor; but it is probable that this would be taken care of by the construction of the storage room mentioned above. These improvements are all that are necessary to make the housing of Decatur County records conform ~~to~~ with the highest standards.

4. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The Style Manual of the United States Government Printing Office is the authority followed herein.

Acts	(session) Laws of the State of Indiana (commonly referred to by binder's title, "Acts"). By authority ... (of the) Secretary of State (of Indiana)
agr. agt.	agricultural agent, agricultural agent's
alph.	alphabetical, alphabetically
approx.	approximately
arr.	arranged
art.	article
assr.	assessor, assessor's
aud.	auditor, auditor's
aver.	average
bdl.	bundle
Bldg.	Building
bsmt.	basement
Burns	Burns, Harrison, editor. Annotated Indiana Statutes containing all Acts of a general and public nature in force September 1, 1933. 12 vols. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, Ind. (c1933 and 1934) with Supplement 1936 in pocket in back cover. (Year is given in reference only in citations to supplement. Numbers refer to sections which run in one continuous, consecutive series as explained in Burns 1:iii-iv.)
c.	copyright (before date)

C.C.	County Courthouse
ch.	chapter
chron.	chronologically, chronological
clk.	clerk, clerk's
comr.	commissioner, commissioners, commissioner's, commissioners'
Const.	Constitution of Indiana (refers to present constitution unless date follows)
cor.	coroner, coroner's
hdw.	handwritten
hi. sup.	highway supervisor, highway super- visor's
hlth. offr.	health officer, health officer's
ibid.	ibidem (same reference as that immediately foregoing)
Ind.	Indiana; Indiana Reports (when pre- ceded by the volume number, refer- ence is to the official state court reports).
Laws Ind. Terr.	Laws of Indiana Territory, The: 1801-1809. Edited by Francis S. Philbrick. Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library: Vol. 21. Reprinted with supplementary Indiana material. Indianapolis, Ind. Historical Bureau, 1931.
Laws N.W. Terr.	Laws of the Northwest Territory, The: 1788-1800. Edited by Theodore Calvin Pease. Illinois State Historical Library Law Series: Vol. 1. Springfield, Ill. Reprinted by the Illinois State Bar Association. (c1925)
mi.	mile
n.	north

ne.	northeast
no. nos.	number, numbers
nw.	northwest
off.	office
p., pp.	page, pages
pr. frm.	printed form.
pt.	part
pvt.	private
pros. atty.	prosecuting attorney, prosecuting attorney's
q.v.	which one
rec.	record
recr.	recorder, recorder's
Rev. Laws 1831	Revised Laws of Indiana, ... enacted by the general assembly at their fifteenth session ... Published by authority of the general assembly. Indianapolis, 1831.
Rev. Stat. 1843-	Revised Statutes of the State of Indiana passed at the twenty-seventh session of the general assembly ... Printed and published according to law. Indianapolis, 1843.
1 Rev. Stat. 1852)	Revised Statutes of the State of Indiana, passed at the thirty-sixth session of the general assembly ... 2 vols. Printed and published according to law. Indianapolis, 1852.
2 Rev. Stat. 1852)	
Rev. Stat. 1881	Revised Statutes of Indiana ... Collated and annotated by James S. Frazer, John B. Stotsenburg, and David Turpie, Commissioners. By Authority of the general assembly Chicago, Ill. B. B. Myers and Company, 1881.
rm.	room

s.	south
sec.	section
se.	southeast
shf.	shoriff, sheriff's
spc. sess.	special session
stat.	statutes
stg.	storage
suppl.	supplement
sur.	surveyor, surveyor's
supt., supt. sch.	superintendent, superintendent's, superintendent of schools
sw.	southwest
tr.	treasurer, treasurer's
twp.	township
U.S.	United States
vol., vols.	volume, volumes
vt.	vault
wfr.	welfare
--	current
'	foot, feet
"	inch, inches

Other abbreviations in common use are occasionally used.

Explanatory Notes

The inventory of the records of each bureau is preceded by an explanatory section, giving its legal status and functions.

In each legal status the inception date of each office is given as a comparative basis for the dates of the records. If the office were established before the origin of the county, the date of organization is the inception date. Whenever the inception date of records is later than the date of the organization of the county, it is by reason of statutory inauguration.

Entries are grouped under an outline classification, using headings and subheads according to relative functions. The first breakdown is centered in capitals and lower-case; the second breakdown is relative to the first and is in capitals and lower-case, underscored at the margin.

Each entry has two parts or paragraphs: Title and description. Occasionally an entry will have a third cross-reference paragraph.

1. The title consists of:

1. Entry number. The entries are numbered consecutively within the county.

2. Titles in capitals, enclosed in parentheses, are supplied by the Historical Records Survey, because either the volume or file has no title or an incorrect one. Words in capitals and lower case, enclosed in parentheses, are also supplied or are supplementary to the title, where it is necessary to explain the types of records more fully.

3. Period covered by the record, showing beginning and ending dates by years only. In a divided year, the months and days are given. A dash in place of an ending date denotes a continuous open record.

4. Quantity.

5. Marking, if a series or a part of a series. Where the entry consists of one unit, marked 1, the marking is omitted; if otherwise marked, except by dates, marking is given.

6. Variation in numbering.

7. Missing volumes.

8. Subtitles or variations in title.

II. The description consists of:

1. A complete description of the record, its contents, and its purpose, with a resume of the column headings or subjects treated.

2. Method of arrangement or indexing.

3. Nature of recording. Modern records are almost exclusively in printed form, filled in by hand or typewriter as stated in entry.

4. Condition. Unless good or excellent, in which case, it is omitted.

5. Number of pages averaged for a series.

6. Size, averaged for a series, is given in inches unless otherwise specified; hence the inch sign is omitted.

7. Location. The place of custody (the room in which the records are located) is given in the entry, except, as stated in the legal status, in cases where all, or the majority, of the records are in one room.

4. List of Abbreviations, Symbols, and Explanatory Notes

III. Cross-references made to other entries.

1. For records which have relative functions.
2. For records having earlier or later recordings under a different title or type of record.
3. For records for which additional information may be found in other entries.

Whenever an entry contains more than one type of record, all the dates are given in a master entry under the actual title or under a complete title, if supplied, with reference to subordinate entries for each part. The subordinate entries consist of title, dates, and description only.

I. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The board of commissioners is a statutory body comprising three members elected for a term of three years. Elections are so arranged that one member shall retire each year. The county is divided into three districts from each of which one member is elected by the electorate of the entire county. (1) Decatur County has had a board of commissioners from its creation in 1822, as provided in the acts of 1817, (2) and the revised statutes of 1852. (3)

The board was intended to be the administrative and executive head of the county. In 1899 the fiscal powers were vested exclusively in the county council (q.v.) which was then created. (4)

The board of commissioners is a corporate body with powers to sue and be sued, and possessing duties, rights, and powers incident to corporations. (5) It meets in regular session every month on the first Monday and in special sessions as called by the county auditor, its ex-officio clerk. (6)

Its principal functions are: Control of county property, allowance of claims against county, (7) letting of county contracts, supervision of contracts of maintenance of roads and bridges, (8) preparation of annual budget estimates, (9) and exercise of the right of eminent domain. (10) Other powers, in specific instances, have been conferred upon the board by the legislature, chiefly to abolish or change township or precinct boundary lines, (11) to establish

libraries (12) and hospitals, (13) to authorize payment of bounties, and to offer rewards. (14)

The commissioners, by virtue of their office, were constituted a board of turnpike directors, by an act of 1879, for the management and control of all free turnpikes in the county. Each director had personal supervision of one district. Their powers were to appoint suitable persons to supervise the work of repairs; contract for labor and materials; enter upon lands to take gravel, and to give certificates of payment; and to appoint a clerk of the board. (15) An act of 1905 made the county auditor the clerk of the board. (16)

This board was abolished in 1913, and the highways were placed in charge of a superintendent of highways appointed by the commissioners. (17)

This office was likewise abolished twenty years later, and supervision of highways was transferred to the surveyor (q.v.) unless the commissioners appoint a highway supervisor (q.v.). (18) The county commissioners may employ the surveyor to serve as highway supervisor. (19)

-
- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; | (6) Acts 1863; Burns 26-607. |
| Acts 1929; Burns 26-601, | (7) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns |
| 26-602, 26-603. | 26-620. |
| (2) Acts 1817, ch. 14, sec. 1. | (8) Acts 1905; Burns 36-1301. |
| (3) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; | (9) Acts 1899; Burns 26-516. |
| Acts 1929; Burns 26-601. | (10) Acts 1899; Burns 26-2101. |
| (4) Acts 1899; Burns 26-501, | (11) Acts 1859; Burns 26-701. |
| 26-515, 26-529, 26-532, | (12) Acts 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; |
| 26-533. | Burns 41-502. |
| (5) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns | (13) Acts 1903; Burns 22-3201. |
| 26-606. | |

- (14) Acts 1875; Burns 26-1101.
(15) Acts 1879, p. 226.
(16) Acts 1905, pp. 521-579.

- (17) Acts 1913, ch. 330, sec. 1.
(18) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1101 to
36-1109.
(19) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1110.

Court Proceedings and Reports

1. COMMISSIONERS' RECORD, 1822--. 23 vols. (1-23).

Record of commissioners' meetings, showing date, names of members present, kind of business discussed, and action taken. No index. 1822-June 1, 1905, hdw.; July 3, 1905--., typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

2. COMMISSIONERS' DOCKET, 1858-1912. 6 vols. (1-2,1-4).

Title varies: Claim and Allowance Docket.

Record of claims filed, showing date filed and allowed; kind, no., and amount of claim; name of claimant, and record and page nos. Arr. chron. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 4 vols., 1858-1903, west bsmt. stg. rm.; 2 vols., 1903-12, Aud. vt.

Bond Issues

3. REGISTER OF BONDS, 1839--. 3 vols. (1-2, and 1 vol. not numbered).

Register of bonds, showing dates of issue and maturity, name of holder, purpose of issue, amount of bond, and interest rate. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Aud. vt.

Requisitions, Bids, and Contracts

4. BIDDER'S RECORD, 1874--. 17 file boxes.

Specifications, bids, and contracts, showing date, name of bidder, purpose, and amount. No index. 4 x 8 x 12.

Court Proceedings and Reports--Requisitions, Bids, Contracts, (continued)

5. WARRANTS, CLAIMS, BIDS AND CONTRACTS, 1900--. 123 boxes.

Record of warrants, claims, bids, and contracts, showing date; names of bidder, contractor, and claimant; amount, and cause.

Arr. chron. 14 x 10 x 5.

Claims and Allowances

6. CLAIM AND ALLOWANCE RECORD, 1911--. 5 vols. (1-5).

Record of claims allowed by commissioners, showing claim no., date filed, name and address of claimant, purpose of claim, amount of claim, amount allowed, and no. of warrant. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Aud. vt.

7. RECORD OF OLD AGE PENSION, 1933--. 1 vol.

Record of old age pensions, showing date, names of applicants and dependents; age, color, race, sex, and birthplace of applicant; value of property owned, amount of pension allowed, and certificate no. Indexed alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

Roads, Bridges and Ditches

8. ROAD RECORD, 1866-1931. 2 vols.

Record of roads built under contract, showing date, names of road, commissioner, contractor, and land holder; petition, kind of road, location, length, and cost. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

Court Proceedings and Reports--Roads, Bridges, and Ditches (continued)

9. RECORD BOARD TURNPIKE DIRECTORS, 1904-13. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of proceedings in considering bids for construction and repair of roads, showing date, name of road and bidder, kind of work and material, amount of bond, and amount of bid. No index.

Hdw. 350 pp. 13 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

II. COUNTY COUNCIL

In 1899 the legislature created the county council. This council consists of seven members who are elected for a term of four years and must be resident freeholders of the county. One member is elected from each of the four councilmanic districts by the voters of the district, and three members are elected by the voters of the county at large. The council elects its president from its membership, and the auditor acts as its clerk. The sheriff is required to execute the orders of the council. (1) The inception date of this board in Decatur County is 1899.

The regular annual meeting is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of September for the purpose of fixing the tax rate, of imposing the tax levy, and of making appropriations, (2) and continues from day to day until its business is completed. (3) Special meetings may be called by the auditor or a majority of the members. (4) Sessions must be public. (5) Although a majority of the council constitutes a quorum, the passage of ordinances requires a majority of all members; and extraordinary majorities are required by law in certain instances; (6) a three-fourths vote to increase or insert an item in the budget estimates submitted by the county agencies through the auditor; (7) a two-thirds vote to make additional appropriations at special meetings. (8)

The power of fixing the tax rate where it is not fixed by law, is vested exclusively in the council, likewise the power of making appropriation of money to be paid out of the county treasury. (9)

The council passes on all budget estimates submitted by county officials, (10) as well as emergency appropriations. (11)

The council has exclusive power to authorize the borrowing of money for the county and the issuing of bonds. (12) No sale or purchase by the county of real estate of the value of \$1,000 or more is made without authorization by the council. (13)

The records are located in the auditor's office in the court-house.

-
- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) Acts 1899; Burns 26-501,
26-502, 26-509, 26-515,
26-532. | (8) Acts 1899, 1907, 1913;
Burns 26-521. |
| (2) Acts 1899; Burns 26-507. | (9) Acts 1899; Burns 26-515. |
| (3) Acts 1899; Burns 26-508. | (10) Acts 1899; Burns 26-620. |
| (4) Acts 1899, 1931; Burns
26-507. | (11) Acts 1899, 1907, 1913;
Burns 26-521. |
| (5) Acts 1899; Burns 26-508. | (12) Acts 1899, 1921, 1929;
Burns 26-532. |
| (6) Acts 1899; Burns 26-511. | (13) Acts 1899; Burns 26-534. |
| (7) Acts 1899; Burns 26-520. | |

10. PROCEEDINGS COUNTY COUNCIL, 1899--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of board meetings, adoptions, and adjournments, showing date of meeting, names of members, estimates filed, and amounts appropriated. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

III. CLERK

The clerk of the circuit court, commonly referred to as "county clerk", is a constitutional officer, elected for a four-year term, and not entitled to hold office for more than eight years of any twelve-year period. (1) Prior to 1851, the office of clerk functioned by virtue of the Constitution of 1816. (2) The inception date of this office in Decatur County is 1822.

The clerk of the circuit court also serves, by statutory provisions, as clerk of any and all county courts and as such is required to keep a set of dockets and records for the courts. (3)

In addition to his court duties, numerous other duties are imposed upon the clerk by statute.. He serves ex officio as registration officer for the county and as a member of the various county election boards. (4) In discharging his election duties he is required to keep records of all elections in the county, (5) issue certificates of election to successful candidates, (6) and act as clerk to the commissioners appointed by the circuit court to make a recount in contested elections. (7)

Other important duties of the clerk are the issuance of marriage licenses; (8) professional licenses, such as physicians', (9) dentists', (10) and optometrists'; (11) hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses; (12) business licenses, such as poultry dealers' (13) and junk dealers'; (14) and permits to carry firearms. (15) He approves the bonds of county officers, (16) and approves and files the bonds of notaries. (17) He is required to keep a nurses'

register (18) and a record of firm and partnership certificates, (19) and he also records many legal instruments.

All the records are located in the courthouse.

-
- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| (1) Const., art. 6, sec. 2;
Burns 49-2701. | (9) Acts 1897; Burns 63-1302. |
| (2) Const., 1816, art. 5, sec. 8. | (10) Acts 1913; Burns 63-503. |
| (3) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns
49-2706. | (11) Acts 1907; Burns 63-1009. |
| (4) Acts 1933; Burns 29-306. | (12) Acts 1927; Burns 11-302. |
| (5) Acts 1905; Burns 29-1404. | (13) Acts 1917; Burns 48-1407. |
| (6) Acts 1881; Burns 29-1501. | (14) Acts 1905; Burns 42-703. |
| (7) Acts 1881 spc. sess.;
Burns 29-2103. | (15) Acts 1925; Burns 10-4721. |
| (8) Acts 1852; Burns 44-201. | (16) Acts 1852; Burns 29-105. |
| | (17) Acts 1852; Burns 49-5503. |
| | (18) Acts 1905; Burns 63-903. |
| | (19) Acts 1909; Burns 50-201. |

Elections

Votes

11. INTENTION TO HOLD RESIDENCE, 1900-1932. 1 vol.

Record of persons intending to hold permanent residence in county, showing date, name of person, and residence. No index. Hdw.

250 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Clk. vt.

12. ABSENT VOTERS LIST, 1926--. 10 vols.

Record of absent voters, showing name of elector, address, where ballot was sent, date of application, date ballot was mailed, and date delivered to ballot inspector. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 18 x 2. Clk. vt.

13. ELECTION RECORD, 1890--. 7 vols.

Record of voters, showing date, name of voter, age, sex, color, residence, twp., ward, and precinct. No index. Hdw. 275 pp.

16 x 12 x 2. Clk. vt.

Official Bonds

County

14. RECORD OF OFFICIAL BONDS, 1906--. 1 vol.

Record of county officials' bonds, showing names of official and sureties, date elected, and amount of bond. No index. Hdw.

600 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Clk. vt.

15. OFFICIAL BOND INDEX RECORD, 1866-1910. 1 vol.

Index to Official Bond Record, showing names of principal and sureties, nature of bond, date, and bond record and page no.

Arr. alph. by names of principals. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

Clk. off.

Township

16. RECORD OF JUSTICE'S BONDS, 1830--. 7 vols. (1-2, and 5 vols. not numbered).

Record of bonds given by justices of peace, showing date, names of principal, and sureties, and witnesses, and amount and condition of bond. Indexed alph. by names of principals. Hdw. 325 pp.

18 x 12 x 3. 6 vols., 1830-96, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1894--, clk. off.

17. OFFICIAL BONDS OF JUSTICE OF PEACE, 1822--. 42 boxes. (1-42).

Official bonds of justices of peace, showing date, names of principal and sureties, amount, condition, and duration of bond. Indexed alph. by names of principals. Hdw. 14 x 10 x 5. Clk. off.

Official Bonds (continued)

18. NOTARIES BOND RECORD, 1889--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of bonds posted by persons to act as notary, showing names of principals and sureties, amount of bond, date filed, and date of expiration. Indexed alph. by names of principals. Hdw. 500 pp. 1889-1927, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1927--, Clk. off.

Licenses

Marriage

(For other records, see entries 188, 191)

19. RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1822--. 19 vols. (A-II, 1-11).

Record of marriages, showing date, names of male and female, age, color, race, occupation, and address. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 10 vols., 1822-70, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 9 vols., 1871--, Clk. off.

20. GENERAL INDEX TO MARRIAGES, 1823--. 2 vols. (1-2).

General index to marriage records, showing date, names of bride and groom, and marriage record and page number. Arr. alph. by names of grooms. Hdw. 200 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. vt.

Professional

21. RECORD OF PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE, 1885--. 2 vols.

Record of applications of physicians for licenses, showing name of applicant, file number, physician's certificate of approval, date of filing, and date license granted. Indexed alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

Licenses--Professional (continued)

22. RECORD OF DENTIST'S LICENSES, 1899--. 1 vol.

Record of dentist's licenses, showing name of county and state, date, number, dentist's name, age, place of birth, present address, and date of filing. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 16 x 10 x 1. Clk. vt.

23. OPTOMETRY LICENSE RECORD, 1907-32. 1 vol.

Record of certificates to practice optometry, showing date, and name and age of optomotrist. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 14 x 8 x 1. Clk. vt.

24. RECORD OF VETERINARY APPLICATION, 1901-5. 1 vol.

Record of applications for veterinarian's certificates, showing date, name of applicant, and school attended. No index. Hdw. 125 pp. 16 x 10 x 1. Clk. vt.

Business

25. JUNK DEALER'S RECORD, 1905-34. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of junk dealer's license, showing license number, date issued, name of applicant, location, and name of business. Indexed alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

26. RECORD OF POULTRY DEALERS' LICENSE, 1917--. 2 vols.

Record of applications for poultry dealers' licenses, showing date of application, place of business, name of applicant, date

issued, number of license, and name of place of business. Indexed alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

27. APPLICATION FOR SIRE LICENSES, 1889-1913. 1 vol.

Record of licenses issued to owner of sire, showing name of sire, date of birth, description of sire, register number, and name of owner. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 16 x 10 x 1. Clk. vt.

Certificates

28. REGISTER OF INSURANCE CERTIFICATES, 1875-1933. 2 vols.

Record of insurance agencies, showing date, name of agency, and name and address of agent. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

29. PERMITS TO CARRY FIREARMS, 1925--. 2 vols.

Record of permits to carry fire arms, showing date, name and address of applicant, make of gun, caliber, model number, and reason for permit. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 12 x 8 x 1. Clk. off.

Register

30. REGISTER OF TRAINED NURSES, 1916--. 1 vol.

Record of trained nurses, showing name of nurse, address, age, color, and date recorded. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 10 x 8 x 1. Clk. vt.

Receipts and Disbursements

31. CASH BOOK OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, 1895--. 14 vols.

Record of receipts and disbursements, showing date, amount received,

Receipts and Disbursement) (continued)

amount disbursed, name of payer or payee, and name of fund. No index. Hdw. 392 pp. 18 x 14 x 2. 13 vols., 1895-1933, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1933--, clk. off.

32. CASH BOOK OF DISBURSEMENTS, 1887--. 7 vols. (1-7).

Record of expenditures, showing date, amount paid out, name of payee, balance on hand, name of fund, court fees, cost to witnesses, and purpose of payment. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 6 vols., 1887-1924, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1925--, clk. off.

33. CASH BOOK RECEIPTS, 1887-1912. 6 vols. (1-6).

Record of receipts, showing date, amount received, name of payer, and purpose of payment. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. East bsmt. stg. rm.

34. CASH BOOK AND REGISTER OF FEES, 1885-88. 1 vol.

Record of cash and fees collected, showing date, amount, receipt no., name of payer, purpose of payment, and total received. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. vt.

IV. PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

The prosecuting attorney is a constitutional officer, elected in each judicial circuit for a term of two years. (1) He is required to post bond to be approved by the judge of the circuit court and filed with the clerk. (2)

The office of prosecuting attorney was created by a legislative act in 1831. A prosecuting attorney for each judicial circuit was chosen by a joint ballot of the senate and house of representatives. (3) This office has existed in Decatur County since 1822.

It is the duty of the prosecuting attorney to inquire into the commission of any felony or misdemeanor received on information. (4) He conducts all prosecutions for felonies and misdemeanors in Decatur County, all suits on forfeited recognizances, resists applications for changing names, protects interests of all persons of unsound mind, superintends on behalf of the county any of its trust funds, and defends all suits in which the same may be interested. (5)

The prosecuting attorney may take acknowledgments to deeds or other instruments in writing, administer oaths, protest notes and checks, take depositions of witnesses, and perform any duty now conferred on a notary public.

All the records are located in the courthouse.

(1) Const., art. 7, sec. 11;
2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns
49-2501.

(2) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns
49-2502.

(3) Rev. Laws 1831, ch. 10, sec. 1.

(4) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852;
Burns 49-2503.

(5) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852;
Burns 49-2504.

(6) Acts 1919; Burns 49-2507.

V. CIRCUIT COURT

The circuit court was created by the Constitution of 1816, and re-created by the Constitution of 1851. (1) The judge of the circuit court is elected by the people of the circuit and serve for a term of six years. (2) The inception date of this office in Decatur County is 1822, the organization date of the county. The sixty-eighth circuit comprises Decatur County.

The court has general local jurisdiction of law, equity, and criminal cases, and actions for divorce. It has original jurisdiction of the settlement of decedent's estates and guardianships and all other causes, matters, and proceedings. It has such appellate jurisdiction as may be conferred by law. (3)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

-
- (1) Const., art. 7, sec. 1
(2) Const., art. 7, sec. 9.

(3) Acts 1881; Burns 4-303.

Civil and Criminal Causes (See also entry 95)

35. CIVIL CASES, 1822--. 130 file boxes, (1-130).

Papers pertaining to civil cases, showing case no., cause of action, proceedings, name of party involved, date advertised, judge's name, decision of court, and total cost of case. Arr. chron. Condition poor. 14 x 10 x 5. Clk. off.

Civil and Criminal Causes (continued)

36. CIRCUIT COURT PENDING CASES, 1873--. 1 vol.

Record of pending cases, showing names of parties involved, kind of case, attorney's name, amount of lien, lot and block nos., date signed by plaintiff, date filed, action taken by court, time, and signature of clerk. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

Clk. vt.

37. DISPOSED OF CASES, 1895--. 10 vols.

Record of disposed of cases, showing names of parties involved, trial date, nature of case, cause of action, and cost. No index. Hdw. 900 pp. 14 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

38. FINAL REPORT ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE, 1848--. 24 file boxes.

Final reports on alcoholic beverage law violations, showing date, names of plaintiff and defendant, case no., date answer filed, petition to modify, names of witnesses, testimony, cost, and decree of court. Arr. chron. 14 x 10 x 5. Clk. off.

39. INDICTMENT RECORD, 1860--. 9 vols. (1-9).

Record of grand jury cases, showing date, names of defendant, judge, and juror, kind of case and no., and action taken. Indexed alph. by names of defendants. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 1 vol., 1876-80, bsmt., east stg. rm.; 2 vols., 1860-76, 6 vols., 1880--, Clk. off.

Civil and Criminal Causes, (continued)

40. RECOGNIZANCE BOND RECORD, 1884--. 1 vol.

Record of bonds posted to insure appearance of defendants in court, showing date, amount of bond, charge, names of defendant and surety, and sheriff's and clerk's signatures. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 10 x 2. Clk. vt.

41. NATURALIZATION AND RECORD OF BIRTH, 1867-1923. 4 vols.

(1-4).

Record of petitions for naturalization papers, showing alien's name, age, birthplace, date of arrival, residence, parents' names and addresses, and oath of allegiance. Indexed alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

42. RECORD OF RECEIVERSHIP, 1921--. 1 vol.

Record of receivership cases, showing names of judge, attorneys or persons; firms, state and county, financial statement, case no., date, and court proceedings. Indexed alph. by names of receivers. Hdw. 500 pp. 13 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

43. RECORD OF INSANE, 1853--. 7 vols. (1,3-8).

Record of persons adjudged insane and committed to hospital, showing date filed; names of patient, attending physician, and medical examiner; arrest warrant, patient's address, age, sex, color, family history, name of institution admitted to, date admitted, order of recommitment, and signature of clerk. Indexed alph. by names of patients. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. vt.

Civil and Criminal Causes (continued)

44. INSANITY INDEX, 1901--. 2 vols.

Index to ontry 43, showing name of patient, vol. and case nos., date, time, proceedings and decree of court, name of hospital, and length of time. Arr. alph. by names of patients. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 1 vol., 1901-Mar. 7, 1919, bsmt., east stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1919--, Clk. off.

For prior index, see entry 43.

45. TRANSCRIPT RECORD, 1894--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Transcripts of proceedings of cases, showing names of plaintiff, and defendant, date of court action, amount of money involved, and final decree of court. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiffs.

Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

For prior records, see entry 51.

46. RECORD OF CASES TRANSFERRED, 1826-1903. 1 vol.

Record of cases continued, showing date, names of judge and persons involved, case and transfer nos., cause of transfer, name of court transferred to, nature of case, and court proceedings. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiffs. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. vt.

For subsequent records, see entry 50.

Court Proceedings

(See also entries 94-96)

47. ENTRY DOCKET, CIRCUIT COURT, 1867-1915. 7 vols. (1-7).

Record of claims filed for settlement, showing date, names of

Civil and Criminal Causes--Court Proceedings (continued)

attorneys, plaintiffs and defendants, adjustment, kind of action, nature of case, and date of issue. No index. Hdw. 500 pp.

18 x 12 x 3. East bsmt. stg. rm.

48. ISSUE BOOK, CIRCUIT COURT, 1852-1929. 16 vols.

Numbering varies.

Record of settlement of real estate claims, showing date, cause, case no., names of parties involved, amount allowed, and fee. Arr. chron. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. East bsmt. stg. rm.

For subsequent record, see entry 83.

49. ISSUE DOCKETS, CIRCUIT COURT, 1845-1903. 36 vols.

(1-36).

Record of cases other than real estate settlements, showing names of plaintiffs, defendants, and court; kind of case, findings of court, cost of trial, and amount of judgment rendered. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. East bsmt. stg. rm.

For subsequent record, see entry 56.

50. COURT DOCKET, 1822--. 45 vols. (1-5, and 4 sets 1-10).

Record of all cases filed in circuit court, showing date, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorney; date of trial, amount of judgment rendered, total cost, and in whose favor. No index.

Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 14 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. 42 vols., 1822-1925, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 3 vols., 1925--, Clk. off.

Civil and Criminal Causes--Court Proceedings (continued)

51. BAR AND STATE DOCKET, 1848-1914. 21 vols.

Record of state cases, showing date filed, names of plaintiff and defendant, court proceedings, costs, appeal, reason for appeal, and case no. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

For subsequent record, see ontry 50.

52. CIVIL ORDER BOOK, 1844--. 69 vols. (1-69).

Record of orders issued, showing date, names of plaintiff, defendant, judge, and jurors; and case no. No index. Typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. vt.

53. (CRIMINAL ORDER BOOK), 1844--. 4 vols. (1-4).

Record of warrants issued for arrest of persons committing a felony, showing date, names of plaintiffs and defendants, nature of crime, warrant no., date and time of trial, server of warrant, and signature of sheriff. No index. Hdw. 350 pp. 16 x 10 x 2. Clk. vt.

54. JUDGMENT DOCKET OF CIRCUIT COURT, 1835--. 16 vols.

(2-17).

Record of judgments rendered, showing amount of judgment, names of plaintiff and defendant, date of rendition, cost, order book and page, fee book and page, date entered, date of recognizance, names of bondsmen, and receipt of satisfaction. Indexed alph. by names of defendants. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 8 vols., 1835-71, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 8 vols., 1871--., Clk. off.

Civil and Criminal Causes--Court Proceedings (continued)

55. INDEX OF JUDGMENT DOCKET, CIRCUIT COURT, 1896-1902.

2 vols. (1-2).

Index to entry 54, showing date, names of plaintiff, and defendant, book and page, and amount paid. Arr. alph. by names of defendants.

Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. vt.

56. COMPLETE RECORD, 1828--. 68 vols. (A-Z, 1-42).

Record of findings in court cases, showing date of trial, names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and witnesses, nature of case, case no., jury's verdict, and judgment rendered. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

57. RECORD OF COMMISSIONERS' BOND, 1873--. 1 vol.

Record of bonds posted to sell real estate, showing date filed, amount and no. of bond, names of bondsmen, owners of estate, names of attorneys and court, location and description of real estate, date appointed, condition of obligations, and signatures of witnesses and clerk. Indexed alph. by names of bondsmen. Hdw. 250 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

Executions

(See also entries 119-123)

58. PRAECIPE RECORD, 1900--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of orders issued for executions of judgments, showing date, names of plaintiff and defendant, county, and court, order book and page nos., and amount of fees. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 10 x 1. Clk. off.

Civil and Criminal Causes--Executions (continued)

59. EXECUTION DOCKET, 1823--. 13 vols. (A,1-12).

Record of executions of judgments, showing date of issue, case no., kind of writ, names of plaintiffs and defendants, amount of debt or damage, and interest, date judgment rendered, to whom delivered, length of time returnable, date returned, officer's name, and cost. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiffs. Hdw. 320 pp. 13 x 12 x 3. 6 vols., 1823-90, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 7 vols., 1891--, Clk. off.

60. ORDER OF SALE DOCKET, 1838--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of court orders for sale of property to satisfy judgment, showing order no., kind of writ, names of plaintiff and defendant, date, to whom delivered, date returnable, proof of publication, amount of bids, and total amount of sale. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

61. LIS PENDENS, (Certificate of Sales), 1822--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of certificate of sales, showing date advertised, names of plaintiff, defendant, county, and court, description of property, date and amount of sale, certificate of decree, and signature of sheriff. No index. Hdw. 350 pp. 18 x 14 x 2. Clk. vt.

62. SHERIFF'S FOREIGN CERTIFICATE OF SALES, 1838--. Same vols. as entry 60.

Record of sheriff's foreign certificate of sales, showing date of issuing, no., and kind of writ, date advertised, names of plaintiff

Civil and Criminal Causes--Executions (continued)

and defendant, description of property, amount of debt or damages, name of party receiving judgment, date returnable, amount of fees, and signature. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Clk. vt.

63. REDEMPTIONS (Affidavits and Redemption), 1881-1931.

2 vols.

Record of certificates of redemption in sales of real estate to satisfy claims, showing date, claim and warrant nos., name of claimant, description and location of property, amount of claim, and certificate of redemption. No index. Hdw. 450 pp. 18 x 14 x 2. 1 vol., 1881-1917, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1917-31, Clk. vt.

For subsequent record, see entry 87.

64. SUPPORT DOCKET, 1911--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of support paid to court, showing date, cause, case no., time payable, amount, names of payer, payee, and defendant, date of trial, and decision of judge. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

Probate Causes

65. ADMINISTRATOR (Estates and Guardianship Papers), 1848--.

198 boxes.

Papers pertaining to appointment of administrator or guardian, showing date, case no., time of trial, names of plaintiff,

Probate Causes (continued)

defendant, administrator or guardian, cause for appointment, amount of bond, oath, and approval of court. Arr. chron. 14 x 10 x 5.

Clk. vt.

66. ESTATES, 1848--. 160 file boxes.

Papers pertaining to appointment of administrators in settlement of estates, showing names of deceased, administrator, and sureties, amount of property involved, amount of bond, action of court, and date of settlement. Indexed alph. by titles of causes. 14 x 10 x 5. 112 file boxes, 1823-96, Clk. off.; 48 file boxes, 1897--., Clk. vt.

67. INDEX TO ESTATES, 1822--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Index to entry 66, showing names of decedent, and administrator, date of letters, and order book and page no. Indexed alph. by names of decedents. Hdw. 250 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Clk. vt.

68. WILL RECORDS, CIRCUIT COURT, 1822--. 9 vols. (1-9).

Record of wills; showing date filed, names of testator and heir, description and location of property, cash involved, and signature of clerk. Indexed alph. by names of testators. 1822-1906, hdw.; Aug. 10, 1906--., typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

69. INDEX TO WILLS, 1822--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Index to entry 68, showing date, name of testator, and book and page nos. Arr. alph. by names of testators. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. vt.

Probate Causes (continued)

70. PROBATE COURT RECORD AND WILLS, 1829-53. 3 vols. (A-II).

Record of wills probated, showing date, term of court, names of testator and heirs, value of estate, and court proceedings. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

For subsequent records, see entry 84.

71. GUARDIAN'S BONDS AND OATH AND LETTERS, 1822--. 6 vols. (1-6).

Record of persons appointed as guardians to settle estates, showing date, amount of bond, name of bondsmen, guardian, and witnesses; oath, and letter of administration. Indexed alph. by names of guardians. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 3 vols., 1822-96, east stg. rm.; 3 vols., 1897--, Clk. vt.

72. RECORD OF GUARDIAN BOND AND OATH, (Record of Administrator Bond and Oath), 1847--. 5 vols. (1-5).

Record of persons appointed as administrators in settlement of estates, showing date of court action, date appointed, oath, amount of bond, names of bondsmen and administrator, and signature of clerk. Indexed alph. by names of administrators. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 3 vols., 1847-96, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 2 vols., 1897--, Clk. vt.

73. GENERAL INDEX GUARDIANSHIPS, 1839--. 1 vol. (2).

Index to entry 71, showing date, names of guardian, ward, and estate, and book and page nos. Arr. alph. by names of guardians. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. vt.

Probate Causes (continued)

74. ADMINISTRATOR'S BOND, OATH, AND LETTERS, 1853--. 8 vols. (1-8).

Record of bonds posted by administrators, showing date, names of administrator, estate, and surety; amount of bond, obligation, and oath. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 5 vols., 1853-1902, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 3 vols., 1903--, Clk. off.

75. RECORD OF EXECUTOR'S BOND AND OATH, 1853--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of bonds posted by executors, to settle estates, showing date, names of estate, executor, and bondsmen; amount of bond, and oath. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 1 vol., 1853-1913, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1913--, Clk. vt.

76. RECORD OF BONDS TO SELL REAL ESTATE, (Administrators and Executors), 1916--. 1 vol.

Record of bonds to sell real estate, showing date, names of administrator or execuotr, and witness; amount and condition of bond, and description of real estate. Indexed alph. by names of administrators and executors. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

For prior records, see entry 72.

77. INVENTORY RECORD, 1853--. 14 vols. (1-14).

Rgcord of appraisements on property of estates, showing date of sale, description of property, value, amount of sale, and names of estate and purchaser. No index. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 7 vols., 1853-95, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 7 vols., 1896--, Clk. off.

Probate Causes (continued)

73. PARTITION RECORD, 1829-1917. 13 vols. (A-B, 1-11).

Record of court proceedings for divisions of real estate, showing date, names of plaintiff and defendant, and decree of court. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiffs. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

For subsequent record, see entry 52.

79. GENERAL INDEX OF PARTITIONS AND CLAIMS, 1833-1915.

1 vol.

Index to entry 73, showing date, names of plaintiff and defendant, book and page, and date of entry. Arr. alph. by names of plaintiffs. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. vt.

80. SALE BILL RECORD, 1853--. 3 vols. (1-8).

Record of personal property sold during litigation of estate, showing date of sale, description of property, order no., time of sale, name of purchaser, amount of sale, cost, and date of redemption. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 3 vols., 1853-84, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 5 vols., 1885--, Clk. off.

81. INHERITANCE AND TRANSFER TAX RECORD, 1913-15. 1 vol.

Record of tax on inheritance during process of transfer, showing date of death, names of heirs, relationship, name of administrator, amount of appraisement, value of estate, and tax rate. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. vt.

For other records, see entry 113.

Proceedings in Probate Causes

82. GENERAL ENTRY CLAIM AND ALLOWANCE DOCKET, PROBATE,
1875--. 12 vols. (1-4,1-8).

Record of final settlement of estates, showing date of decedent's death, name and no. of estate, page no., name and address of administrator, date of letters, names of surety, claimant, and attorney, nature and no. of claim, date of filing, amount of claim, amount allowed, receipt of satisfaction, and remarks. Indexed alph. by names of estates. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 4 vols., 1875-1902, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 4 vols., 1903--, Clk. vt.

83. REAL ESTATE ENTRY, CLAIM AND ALLOWANCE DOCKET FEE BOOK,
1930--. 9 vols. (1-9).

Record of fees assessed plaintiff and defendant, for court costs, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, cause and nature of action, amount of fees, costs, amount, and date of allowance. Arr. chron. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. vt.

For prior records, see entries 90 and 94.

84. ESTATE DOCKET, 1864-1917. 7 vols. (1-7).

Record of settlement of estates, showing date, names of decedent and administrator, value of property, amount of bond, name of surety, appraisement, issues, case no., proceedings, petition for sale, proof of publication, petition to determine inheritance tax, and publication of final settlement. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. East bsmt. stg. rm.

For prior records, see entry 50.

Probate Causes--Proceedings in Probate Causes (continued)

85. GUARDIAN DOCKET, 1864-1917. 10 vols. (1-10).

Record of appointment of guardian, showing case no., date, names of guardian, surety, and ward; amount of bond, proceedings, and date of settlement. Indexed alph. by names of guardians. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. East bsmt. stg. rm.

86. JUDGE'S DOCKET, PROBATE COURT, 1872-90. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of court proceedings during litigation of an estate, showing case no., names of decedent, administrator, executor, and guardian; amount of bond, date of grant, name of surety, amount allowed each heir, and amount of costs. Indexed alph. by names of estates. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. East bsmt. stg. rm.

For subsequent records, see entry 56.

87. ORDER BOOK, PROBATE, 1852--. 44 vols. (1-44).

Record of court orders in settlement of estate cases, showing date filed, names of plaintiff and defendant, proceedings, findings of court, date received, signature of judge, and appointment made to satisfy court and heirs. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiffs. 1853-1905, hdw.; 1905--, typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

For prior records, see entry 52.

Fees and Cash Records

38. FEE BOOK OF CRIMINALS, CIRCUIT COURT, 1885--. 4 vols.

(1-4).

Record of criminal cases, showing date, case no., names of plaintiff, defendant, and witnesses, court costs, and receipts for fees allowed by court. No index. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

89. ESTATE FEE BOOK, 1863--. 5 vols. (1-5).

Record of estate settlement fees, showing date, name of estate, and amount of fee. Indexed alph. by names of estates. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 4 vols., 1863-1920, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1921--, Clk. vt.

90. FEE BOOK, 1852-1929. 5 vols. (3,11,25,31,41,).

Record of fees assessed against claimant or defendant, showing date, amount, purpose, case no., and names of plaintiff and defendant. Arr. chron. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. East bsmt. stg. rm.

For subsequent records, see entry 33.

91. CRIMINAL ORDER BOOK, (Record of Fines and Forfeitures),

1844--. 4 vols. (1-4).

Record of fines and forfeitures, showing cause, date, case no., names of plaintiff, defendant, and payer, date affidavit filed, and writs issued. No index. Hdw. 230 pp. 16 x 10 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Clk. off.

Fees and Cash Records (continued)

92. WITNESS AND CLAIM RECORD, 1891--. 2 vols.

Record of witnesses filing claims for service fee on court cases, showing court term, case no., date, names of plaintiff, defendant, and witness; days served, and miles traveled. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clk. off.

VI. COMMON PLEAS COURT

The common pleas court was established by an act of 1852, effective in Decatur County in 1853. The judge was elected for a term of four years. (1)

The court had jurisdiction in matters relating to probate of wills; appointment of guardians for persons of unsound mind and other disabilities; in matters relating to executors and administrators; (2) in civil matters ranging from fifty to one thousand dollars, except in cases of slander, libel, breach of marriage contract, and an action on an official bond, or where the title of real estate was in issue; (3) and criminal jurisdiction in cases which were not felonies, except those triable by the justice of the peace. (4)

At the time of the creation of this court, cases pending which came under the new jurisdiction, were transferred from the circuit court to the common pleas court. Because of the inadequacies of this court, it was abolished in 1873 and the jurisdiction was transferred to the circuit court. Pending cases continued to be entered in common pleas records until completion of the suits. (5) All the records are located in the east basement storage room in the courthouse, unless otherwise stated, and are, with other court records, in custody of the clerk of the circuit court.

-
- (1) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852,
pt. 1, ch. 8, sec. 1.
(2) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852,
pt. 1, ch. 8, sec. 4.
(3) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852,
pt. 1, ch. 8, sec. 11.

- (4) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852, pt. 1,
ch. 8, sec. 14.
(5) Acts 1873, ch. 29, sec. 80.

Civil and Criminal Causes
(See also entries 35-46)

93. CIVIL CASES, 1852-73. 75 file boxes.

Proceedings in civil cases, showing amount involved, case no., cause, date, proceedings, names of plaintiff, defendant, and judge; amount of judgment, cost, and decision of court. Arr. chron.
14 x 10 x 5. Clk. off.

Court Proceedings
(See also entries 47-57)

94. ISSUE BOOK, COMMON PLEAS COURT, 1852-73. 6 vols.

(4, 7, 9, 10, 15, 18).

Record of parties subpoenaed to appear in court in settlement of claim, showing date, cause, case no., name of plaintiff, cost, and amount. Arr. chron. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

95. COURT DOCKET, 1852-73. 13 vols. (1-13).

Record of court proceedings and minutes, showing date of entry, amount involved, case no., date and time of trial, names of attorney, defendant and judge, and nature of offense. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

96. JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1853-75. 5 vols. (1-5).

Record of judgments awarded, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys; case and page nos., amount of judgment, court cost, and date of trial. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiffs and defendants. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

VII. RECORDER

The recorder is a constitutional officer elected for a term of four years and is required to post bond. (1) No person is eligible to hold the office of recorder for more than eight years in any twelve-year period. (2) The inception date of this office in Decatur County is 1822, the organization date of the county.

The title of this officer describes his functions: To make and preserve a public record of legal documents for official and private persons as required by law. Of the many kinds of instruments recorded the more important are: Deeds, mortgages, and apprentices' indentures, (3) satisfactions, cancelations, and assignments of any kind, (4) releases, (5) mechanics' liens, (6) and leases. (7)

The recorder is also required to keep a record of articles of incorporation filed in his office, (8) and certificates of admission for foreign corporations to do business in Indiana. (9) There are also on file in the office of the recorder, records of cemetery deeds, (10) cemetery associations, (11) farm names, (12) and chattel mortgages. (13)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

-
- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1901; Burns 49-3201. | (8) Acts 1929; Burns 25-219. |
| (2) Const., art. 6, sec. 2. | (9) Acts 1929; Burns 25-305. |
| (3) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3210. | (10) Acts 1925; Burns 21-223. |
| (4) Acts 1905; Burns 49-3203. | (11) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 25-1520. |
| (5) Acts 1881 spc. sess.; Burns 2-2519. | (12) Acts 1913; Burns 49-3236. |
| (6) Acts 1909; Burns 43-703. | (13) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1897; Burns 33-301. |
| (7) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1875, 1913, 1921, 1923; Burns 56-119. | |

Deeds, Titles, and Grants

97. DEED RECORDS, 1822--. 98 vols. (A-H, J-Z, 1-73).

Record of certified copies of deeds, showing names of grantee and grantor, description and location of land, consideration, and date. Indexed alph. by names of grantors. 1822- Mar. 14, 1904, hdw.; Mar. 16, 1904--, typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recr. vt.

98. GENERAL INDEX OF DEEDS, 1822--. 20 vols (4 vols. AM-17Y; --2 sets 3-10).

Inded to entry 97, showing description of deed, names of grator and grantee, and volume and page nos. Arr. alph. by names of grantees and grantors. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recr. vt.

99. TAX TITLE DEED, 1863--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of tax title deeds, showing names of owner and purchaser, amount of delinquent tax, date, and signature of auditor. Indexed alph. by names of owners. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recr. vt.

For prior records, see entry 97; for sales record, see entry 160.

100. WILL RECORD, 1896--. 2 vol. (1-2).

Transcripts of wills, showing date, names of testator, heirs and witnesses; and amount of bequest. Indexed alph. by names of testators. 1896- Apr. 30, 1906, hdw.; Mar. 6, 1906--. typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recr. vt.

Mortgages and Releases

Real Estate

101. MORTGAGE RECORD, 1822--. 67 vols. (A-O, 1-52).

Record of mortgages on real estate, showing date, location and description of property, amount of mortgage, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, and date of maturity. Arr. alph. by names of mortgagors and mortgagees. 1822- Mar. 3, 1904, hdw.; May 4, 1904--. typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 15 vols., 1822-48, recr. vt.; 52 vols, 1848-- , recr. off.

102. GENERAL INDEX OF MORTGAGES, 1822--. 7 vols. (1-7).

Index to entry 101, showing date, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, description and location of property, amount of mortgage, and vol. and page no. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagees and mortgagors. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recr. off.

103. ENTRY BOOK OF MORTGAGES, 1887--. 7 vols. (1-2, 1-5).

Record of mortgages entered for recording, showing name of instrument, dates filed and recorded, names of mortgagee and mortgagor, page and vol. nos., description of land, amount of loan, and rate of interest. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagors and mortgagees. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 2 vols., 1887-1912, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 5 vols., 1912--. recr. vt.

Chattels

104. CHATTEL MORTGAGES, 1862--. 33 vols. (1-33).

Record of chattel mortgages, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, description of chattels mortgaged, amount, date recorded, and date of maturity. Arr. alph. by names of mortgagees and mortgagors. 1862-Mar. 7, 1904, hdw.; Mar. 9, 1904-- , typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

Subm.

105. (CHATTEL MORTGAGE MINUTE BOOK), 1935--. 1 vol. (33).

Record of chattel mortgages, showing description of chattels mortgaged, date, amount, rate of interest, and names of mortgagee and mortgagor. For index, see entry 102. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recr. off.

106. CHATTEL MORTGAGES, 1935--. 4 file drawers (A-Z).

Original chattel mortgages, showing names of mortgagee and mortgagor, case number, amount, description, rate of interest, list of chattels, and date satisfied. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagees. 28 x 16 x 12. Recr. off.

School Funds

(See also 163-166)

107. SCHOOL FUND MORTGAGES, 1856--. 4 vols. (1-4).

Record of school fund mortgages, showing names of mortgagee and mortgagor, description of land, amount of loan, and date. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagors. 1856-Apr. 19, 1906, hdw.; July 17, 1906--, typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recr. off.

Assignments and Releases

108. SATISFACTION, CANCELATION, ASSIGNMENTS, 1905-10. 1 vol.

Record of mortgages, showing description of land, amount of mortgage, interest rate, date executed, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, date and time recorded, and mortgage record volume and page number. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagors and mortgagees. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. West bsmt. stg. rm.

Liens

109. MISCELLANEOUS RECORD OF MECHANICS'S LIEN, 1853--.

2 vols. (1-2). 1898-1920, missing.

Record of mechanics' liens, showing date, kind of labor or materials furnished, amount of lien, and names of lien holder and property owners. Indexed alph. by names of lien holders. 1853-97, hdw.; 1921-1936, typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recr. off.

110. SIRE LIEN RECORD, 1890-1911. 1 vol.

Record of liens against owner of sires, showing date, description of dam, name of sire, name of owner, and amount of lien. Indexed alph. by names of sire owners. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. West bsmt. stg. rm.

Register of Legal Instruments

111. SOLDIER'S DISCHARGE RECORD, 1865--. 2 vols (1-2).

Record of soldier's discharges, showing date, name of soldier, dates of enlistment and discharge, and name of commanding officer. No index. 1865-Mar. 15, 1919, hdw.; Mar. 16, 1919--. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recr. off.

112. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, 1898--. 2 vols (1-2).

Record of firms incorporated, showing date, names of firm and members, and agreement. Indexed alph. by names of firms. 1898-Oct. 10, 1930, hdw.; Nov. 12, 1930--, typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recr. off.

113. INHERITANCE TAX RECORD, 1914--. 1 vol.

Record of inheritance taxes, showing date, names of heirs and

Register of Legal Instruments (continued)

estate, value of estate, amount of exemption; tax rate, and amount of tax. Indexed alph. by names of estates. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recr. off.

114. INSTRUMENTS, 1822--. 42 file boxes.

Original instruments recorded, showing date, kind of instrument, and names of parties. Arr. chron. 12 x 8 x 6. Recr. off.

Miscellaneous Records

115. MISCELLANEOUS RECORD, 1836--. 14 vols. (1-14).

Record of mortgage releases, articles of agreement, patents, resolutions, and settlements, showing date, case number, names of parties, and kind of instrument. Indexed alph. by names of parties filing instruments. 1836-Jan. 20, 1908, hdw.; Feb. 1, 1908--, typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recr. off.

Fee and Cash Books

116. RECORDER'S CASH BOOK, 1895--. 9 vols. (2-5, 2 and 3 not numbered). Title varies: Register of Fee.

Record of fees collected, showing date, number and kind of instrument, name of payer, and amount. Indexed alph. by names of payers. 1895-Feb. 25, 1905, hdw.; Feb. 27, 1905--, typed. 5 vols., 1895-1917, west bsmt. stg. rml; 4 vols., May 17, 1917--, Recr. vt.

Maps

117. DECATUR COUNTY, 1916. 1 map.

Communications and land tenure map, showing name and location of

Maps (continued)

main highways, location of land, and names of owners. Published at Greensburg, Ind., by Evening Times. Printed. Condition fair. Scale, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. to 1 mi. 40 x 30. Recr. off.

118. PLAT OF GREENSBURG (City), 1922. 1 map.

Political and communications map, showing location of wards, property lines, railroads, electric lines, and buildings. Drawn by R. F. Lee, Greensburg Ind. Printed. Condition fair. Scale, 1 in. to 200 ft. 42 x 42. Recr. off.

VIII. SHERIFF

The sheriff is a constitutional officer elected for a term of two years. He must give a bond to insure faithful performance of his duties, and is required to take the usual oath of office. (1) No person is eligible to hold the office of sheriff for more than four years in any period of six years. (2) Prior to the Constitution of 1851 the office of sheriff functioned by virtue of the Constitution of 1816. (3) The inception date of this office in Decatur County is 1822, the organization date of the county.

The sheriff is the conservator of peace within Decatur County. He may arrest without process all persons, who within his view commit any crime or misdemeanor, and hold them in custody during investigation of the cause of such arrest. He is required to suppress all breaches of the peace and has authority to call to his aid the power of the county; pursue and commit to jail all felons; maintain and preserve order in the courts of the county except justice of the peace courts. He also maintains the jail and takes care of the prisoners confined in it. (4) It is his duty to protect persons in danger of possible lynchings. (5) He makes arrests of all persons on indictments, warrants, affidavits, and upon information received from the prosecutor or the court, and commits them to jail. (6)

As a court officer of Decatur County he is required to make service of all process. (7) He sells mortgaged property on foreclosure proceedings; (8) executes deeds to real estate sold on

executions; (9) conveys persons committed to state charitable, correctional, or penal institutions; (10) and attends sessions of the county council (11) and the county commissioners, (12) and executes their orders.

All the records are located in the sheriff's office in the courthouse.

-
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| (1) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2801. | (7) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2803. |
| (2) Const., art. 6, sec. 2. | (8) Acts 1881 spec. sess.; Burns 3-1819. |
| (3) Const., 1816, art. 4, sec. 25. | (9) Acts 1881 spec. sess.; Burns 2-4101. |
| (4) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2802. | (10) Acts 1905; Burns 9-2232. |
| (5) Acts 1905; Burns 10-3310. | (11) Acts 1899; Burns 26-510. |
| (6) Acts 1905; Burns 9-1001. | (12) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 26-611. |

Executions and Reports
(see also entries 58-64)

119. SHERIFF SALE OF REAL ESTATE, 1878--. 2 vols. (1-2).

1886-93, missing.

Record of property sold to satisfy delinquent tax claims, showing kind of writ, amount delinquent, amount of interest and cost, names of owner and purchaser, and sale price. Indexed alph. by names of former owners. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Shf. off.

120. SHERIFF'S SALE RECORD, 1885-86. 1 vol.

Record of property sales to satisfy liens or settle estates, showing date, no. and description of article sold, case no., names of owner and purchaser, and amount of sale. Indexed alph. by names of defendants. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Shf. off.

Executions and Reports(continued)

121. SHERIFF'S CIVIL DOCKET, 1879--. 13 vols.

Record of sheriff's action in civil cases, showing date, cause no., names of plaintiff, defendant, and witnesses, and amount of fees. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiffs. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Shf. off.

122. SHERIFF'S DOCKET AND REGISTER OF FOREIGN WRITS, 1928--,
1 vol.

Record of writs from other counties, served by sheriff, showing date, names of plaintiff, defendant, and foreign county; cause no., and amount of costs. Indexed alph. by names of defendants. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Shf. off.

123. SHERIFF STATE DOCKET, 1879-95. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of criminal cases, showing name of defendant, nature of charge, date writ received, served, and returned, amount of costs, and court decree. Indexed alph. by names of defendants. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Shf. off.

124. MILEAGE CLAIM RECORD, 1929--. 1 vol.

Record of mileage of sheriff on county business, showing date, names of parties, kind of action, total mileage, amount of charges, and date paid. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Shf. off.

For prior records, see entry 132.

125. MILEAGE BOOK, 1925--. 1 vol.

Record of mileage in delivering prisoners and serving court papers, showing date, number of miles, kind of service, and amount of expense. No index. Hdw. 390 pp. 16 x 1 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Shf. off.

126. JAIL REGISTER, 1888-. 3 vols.

Record of persons held in jail, showing date, time, name of prisoner, age, cause, number of days held, amount of fine and costs, and cost of jail board. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 1 vol., 1910--, county jail; C. C., 2 vols., 1888-1909, shf. off.

127. JAIL RECORD, 1897-1924. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of persons sentenced to jail, showing name of prisoner, age, fine, costs, cost of jail board, prisoner's identification no., finger prints, and photo. Indexed alph. by names of prisoners. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 1 vol., 1897-1914, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1915-24, clk. off.

128. JUROR'S DOCKET, 1890-1910. 1 vol.

Record of jurors, showing date, names of jurors, plaintiff, and defendant; number of days served, miles traveled, amount of expense, and no. and title of cause. Indexed alph. by titles of cases. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Shf. off.

129. REGISTER OF JURY, 1898-1901. 1 vol.

Record of jurors, showing names, date, title of cause, and days served. Indexed alph. by names of jurors. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Shf. off.

130. APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION SHERIFF, 1890-1900. 1 vol.

Record of election sheriffs, showing names of appointee, precinct, ward; date, duration of service and attests of clerk and election board. Indexed alph. by names of appointees. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Shf. off.

131. ACCIDENTS AND CRIMES, 1879--. 18 file boxes (A-XYZ).

Reports of accidents and crimes, showing date, name of complainant or informant, nature of crime or accident, location, possible clues, names of officer assigned to case, and officer's report. Arr. by types of complaints. 14 x 8 x 3. Shf. off.

Fee and Cash Books

132. SHERIFF'S FEE BOOK, 1871--. 8 vols. (1-8).

Record of charges collected on court cases, showing date, cause no., names of plaintiff and defendant, execution date, and amount of fees and costs collected. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Shf. off.

133. CASH BOOK, 1878-1926. 2 vols.

Record of cash collections, showing amount of court costs, name of payer, cause, and amount collected. Indexed alph. by names of payers. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Shf. off.

134. CASH BOOK, EXPENDITURES, 1895-1912. 1 vol.

Record of cash expenditures, showing date, nature of expenditure, name of payee, and amount. Indexed alph. by names of payees. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Shf. off.

IX. CORONER

The coroner is a constitutional officer elected for two years without restriction on reelection. (1) He is required to post bond not exceeding five thousand dollars nor less than one thousand dollars. (2) The office was created before 1851 by virtue of the Constitution of 1816. (3) The inception date of this office in Decatur County is 1822, the organization date of the county.

The coronor is required to investigate deaths by violence, by accident, and of suspicious nature, and to determine the cause and manner of death. He holds inquests without a jury, (4) and may subpoena witnesses and employ a physician to make a postmortem examination, (5) filing his report and verdict with the clerk of the circuit court. (6) He is a peace officer with the same powers as the sheriff, (7) and acts as sheriff in event of absence, vacancy, personal interest, or incapacity of that officer, (8) and serves warrants on the sheriff if necessary. (9)

-
- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) Const. 1851, art. 6, sec. 2. | (6) Rev. Stat. 1852, Acts |
| (2) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts | 1879 spc. sess.; Burns |
| 1933; Burns 49-2901. | 49-2909. |
| (3) Const. 1816, art. 4. | (7) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts |
| sec. 25. | 1933; Burns 49-2901. |
| (4) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts | (8) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns |
| 1871, 1872 spc. sess.; | 49-2902. |
| Burns 49-2904. | (9) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns |
| (5) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns | 49-2903. |
| 49-2906. | |

135. CORONER'S RECORD, 1873--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of violent deaths, showing date, name of deceased, residence, cause of death, witnesses' testimony, and coroner's verdict.

Indexed alphi. by names of deceased. Hdw. 500 pp. 13 x 12 x 3.

Clk. off.

136. CORONER'S DEATH RECORD, 1904--. 1 vol.

Record of all deaths, showing date, name of deceased, age, sex, cause of death, names of witnesses, and coroner's verdict. Arr. chron. Hdw. 250 pp. 16 x 12 x 1. Cor. off., Union Trust Bldg., Greensburg, Ind.

X. AUDITOR

The auditor is a constitutional officer, elected for a four-year term. (1) No person can hold the office for more than eight years in any period of twelve. (2) He is required to post bond in the amount of ten thousand dollars, approved by and filed with the county commissioners. (3) The inception date of this office in Decatur County is 1841.

This office is the center of county financial administration, and here the financial records of county business are preserved.

The auditor's principal functions are fourfold: As a county "controller", he keeps the accounts of the county and issues warrants for all claims, including those approved by the commissioners. (4) Ex officio he acts as clerk to the board of commissioners, (5) the county council, (6) and the board of tax adjustment, (7) and as secretary to the board of finance. (8) He is also a member and the secretary of the board of review. (9) As a tax officer, he prepares the official tax duplicates, (10) and certifies to the treasurer the amount of taxes due from banks. (11) As budget officer, he compiles estimates made to him by each county agency and submits them to the county council. (12)

Other routine duties are: Keeping a land transfer record book; (13) managing the common school and the congressional township school funds as a member of the school fund board, (14) and apportioning semiannually the interest of these funds to the school corporations; (15) preparing the ditch duplicate covering assessments

for construction or repair of ditches and drains; (16) issuing peddlers' licenses (17) and public warehouse permits; (18) acknowledging deeds and mortgages executed for the security of trust funds; (19) and approving bonds of township trustees. (20) All the records are located in the west basement storage room. in the courthouse, unless otherwise stated.

-
- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3001. | (11) Acts 1933; Burns 64-810. |
| (2) Const., art. 6, sec. 2. | (12) Acts 1899; Burns 26-520. |
| (3) Acts 1899; Burns 49-3003. | (13) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1409. |
| (4) 1 Rev. Stat., 1852; Burns 49-3005; Acts 1897; Burns 26-806. | (14) Acts 1865; Burns 28-140; Acts 1865, 1935; Burns, 1936 suppl., 28-209. |
| (5) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 26-611. | (15) Acts 1879; Burns 26-265. |
| (6) Acts 1899; Burns 26-569. | (16) Acts 1933; Burns 27-134. |
| (7) Acts 1933; Burns 64-304. | (17) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 42-204. |
| (8) Acts 1907; Burns 61-606. | (18) Acts 1875, 1879 spec. sess.; Burns 67-201. |
| (9) Acts 1919, 1920 spec. sess.; Burns 64-1201. | (19) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3011. |
| (10) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1403. | (20) Acts 1915; Burns 65-103. |

Audits and Reports

137. RECORD OF MONTHLY BALANCE, 1864--. 11 vols. (1-8; 1-3).
Record of monthly balance, showing amount received, amount paid out, date, file no., account, and balance. No index. Hdw. 100 pp.
18 x 16 x 1. 8 vols., 1864-1911, west bsmt. stg. rm.; 3 vols., 1912--., aud. off.

138. AUDITOR'S RECORD OF MONTHLY BALANCE, 1882--. 8 vols.,
(1-3; 1-3; 1-2).

Record of monthly balance by funds, showing date, warrant no., name of payee, fund charged to, amount entered from daily cash book,

Audits and Reports (continued)

weekly and monthly balance, and balance in each fund. No index.

Hdw. 400 pp. 18 x 14 x 2. 2 vols., 1882-1925, west bsmt. stg. rm.;
6 vols., 1925--, aud. off.

139. DAILY BALANCE BOOK, 1916-23. 8 vols. (1-3).

Record of cash received and disbursed daily, showing names of payer.
and of payee, amount, date, and balance. No index. Hdw. 500 pp.
18 x 12 x 3. West bsmt. stg. rm.

140. CERTIFICATE OF DISTRIBUTION, 1889--. 17 file boxes.

Certificates issued for distribution of tax revenue, showing date,
kind of tax, name of fund, and amount. No index. 12 x 8 x 4.
Aud. off.

141. TREASURER'S RECEIPTS AND MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1914--.

10 file boxes.

Receipts from treasurer, showing date, purpose, and amount. No
index. 12 x 8 x 4. Aud. off.

142. INTANGIBLE TAXES, 1920--. 17 file boxes.

Treasurer's report of sales of intangible tax stamps, showing
date, period covered by report, number of stamps sold since last
report, and amount on hand. No index. 12 x 8 x 4. Aud. off.

143. (DEPUTY ASSESSOR'S APPOINTMENTS), 1920--. 17 file boxes.

Deputy assessor's appointment, showing name of twp., year, assessor's
name, and date filed with auditor. No index. 12 x 8 x 4. Aud. off.

144. (RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES), 1920--. Same files as
entry 142.

Receipts and vouchers, showing date, receipt or voucher no.,

Auditor and Reports (continued)

amount, name of payee, and purpose. No index. 12 x 3 x 4. Aud. off.

145. CHANGE OF VENUE RECORD, 1914--. 1 vol.

Record of change of venue cases, showing date received, from what county received, amount of warrant, names of plaintiff and defendant, cause of action, and proceedings of trial. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiffs. Hdw. 350 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Aud. off.

146. RECORD OF CIRCUIT COURT ALLOWANCES, 1898--. 5 vols.

(1-5).

Record of court allowances, showing date, name of claimant, purpose of claim, and amount. Indexed alph. by names of claimants. Hdw. 350 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Aud. vt.

Receipts and Disbursements

147. AUDITOR FEE AND CASH BOOK, 1890--. 4 vols. (2; and 3 vols. not numbered).

Record of fees collected and cash received and disbursed, showing date, amount, name of payor or payee, and purpose. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 3 vols., 1890-1923, west bent. stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1923--, aud. off.

148. REGISTER OF RECEIPTS, 1912--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of all receipts, showing date, amount, receipt no., name of payor, and ledger no. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Aud. off.

149. AUDITOR'S LEDGER-APPROPRIATION AND DISBURSEMENTS, 1851--.

28 vols. (A-K, 1-8, and 9 vols. not labeled). Title varies: Auditor's Ledger Receipts.

Record of receipts, appropriations, and disbursements of funds,

Receipts and Disbursements (continued)

showing date, name of fund, amounts appropriated and disbursed, purpose, name of payer or payee, amount on hand, and balance.

No index. Hdw. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 19 vols., 1851-1902, west bsmt. stg. rm.; 4 vols., 1902-24, Aud. vt.; 5 vols., 1924--,
Aud. off.

150. JOURNAL OF WARRANTS, 1920--. 24 vols. Title varies:

Duplicate Warrants; Receipts and Vouchers.

Record of warrants issued, showing warrant number, amount, purpose, name of payee, to what account charged, and dates issued and returned. No index. Hdw. 900 pp. 18 x 12 x 6. 17 vols., Aud. off.; 7 vols., Aud. vt.

151. CASH BOOK OF DISBURSEMENTS ON AUDITOR'S WARRANTS,

1864-97. 6 vols.

Record of all cash disbursed, showing date, warrant number, amount, name of payee, and to what fund charged. No index.
Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. West bsmt. stg. rm.

152. REGISTER OF ALLOWANCES FOR POOR RELIEF AND MEDICAL
ATTENDANCE, 1898--. 3 vols.

Record of allowances given to trustees for relief expenditures, showing date, amount, type of relief, and name of recipient. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 8 x 1½. Aud. off.

153. LEDGER OF AUDITOR, 1851-1902. 4 vols. (1-4).

Record of county expenditures, showing date, warrant number, amount, purpose, to what fund charged, name of payee, and balance. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. West bsmt. stg. rm.

Taxes

Appraisements

154. TRANSFER BOOK, 1895--. 126 vols.

Record of transfers of real estate, showing name of owner, description of property, value, value of improvements, total valuation of real estate, to whom transferred, from whom transferred, date of transfer, and date of deed. Indexed alph. by names of owners. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Aud. off.

Returns

155. MORTGAGE AND SOLDIERS' EXEMPTIONS AND AFFIDAVITS, 1917--.

28 vols.

Record of exemptions on tax levies, showing date, amount of mortgage, name and affidavit of mortgagor, location of real estate, and amount of indebtedness. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Assr. rm.

156. MORTGAGE EXEMPTION BONDS, AFFIDAVITS, 1840--. 267

boxes, 20 drawers.

Affidavits of mortgage exemptions, showing date, name of mortgagor, amount of mortgage, amount of indebtedness, and description and location of property. No index. Boxes, 14 x 10 x 5; drawers, 27 x 16 x 12. Aud. off.

Lists

157. ASSESSMENT LISTS, 1890--. 1058 vols.

Record of assessment lists, showing date, name, age, and address of

party assessed; kind of property, kind of tax, and amount of assessment. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 14 x 10 x 5. 1890-1924, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 1925--, assr. off.

158. ASSESSOR'S PERSONAL ASSESSMENTS, 1892--. 758 vols.

Record of assessments on personal property, showing date, name and address of owner, description of property, valuation, and amount of assessment. Indexed alph. by names of owners. Hdw. 300 pp. 14 x 9 x 2. 508 vols., 1892-1925, east bsmt. stg. rm.; 250 vols., 1926--, assr. vt.

Delinquents

159. LIST OF LANDS AND LOTS DELINQUENT, 1868--. 6 vols.

(1-2, 2, and 3 vols. not numbered).

Record of land and lots delinquent on tax payments, showing location of land and lots, amount delinquent, amount of penalty and interest, name of owner, and date. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Aud. vt.

160. REGISTER OF SALES, LANDS AND LOTS, 1864--. 4 vols.

Title varies: Register of Sale, Delinquent.

Record of sales of delinquent lands and lots, showing date, names of owner and purchaser, description and location of property, amount delinquent, amount of sale, and redemption period. Indexed alph. by names of property owners. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 2 vols., Aud. off.; 2 vols., Aud. vt.

For Tax Deed Record, see entry 99.

161. DELINQUENT RECEIPTS, 1851-1901. 10 vols.

Record of delinquent tax receipts, showing date received, period

Taxes--Delinquents (continued)

of delinquency, amount of tax and penalty, total amount, receipt number, and name of payer. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. West bsmt. stg. rm.

Plat Books

162. ASSESSOR'S PLAT BOOKS, 1861--. 1237 vols.

Record of real estate plats, showing name of owner, description and location of property, and value of lands and improvements. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. 700 vols., 1861-99, west bsmt. stg. rm.; 287 vols., 1899-1919, bsmt., east stg. rm.; 250 vols., 1920--, assr. vt.

School Funds
(See also entry 107)

163. INVENTORY OF TRUST OR SCHOOL FUNDS LOANED, 1864--.

3 vols. (1, 1-2).

Record of condition and distribution of school funds, showing date, amount loaned from school fund, name of borrower, description and location of surety, amount of interest, and ablance. No index. Hdw. 350 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. 1 vol., 1864-97, west bsmt. stg. rm.; 2 vols., 1897--, Aud. vt.

164. RECORD OF ENUMERATION AND DISTRIBUTION, 1908-28.

2 vols. (1, 1).

Record of enumeration for distribution of school funds, showing date, name of child, age, sex, color, number of children in

School Funds (continued)

family, name and address of parents, and length of residence. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. West bsmt. stg. rm.

165. REGISTER OF LOANS, 1852--. 6 vols. Title varies: School Funds Combined.

Record of school fund loans, showing date, amount of fund, amount loaned, name of borrower, and description of security. No index. Hdw. 400 pp. 18 x 14 x 3. 5 vols., 1852-1912, aud. vt.; 1 vol., 1911--, aud. off.

166. REGISTER OF LOANS, PERMANENT ENDOWMENT, UNIVERSITY FUNDS, 1904-11. 1 vol.

Record of loans from permanent endowment, and university funds, showing amount borrowed, rate of interest, name and address of borrower, location and description of security, and date of final payment. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 18 x 12 x 1. Aud. vt.

XI. ASSESSOR

The office of assessor was created by an act of 1891. (1) This officer is elected for a four-year term, there being no prohibition against successive terms. The inception date of this office in Decatur County is 1891. Qualifications are established by law: He must be a continuous freeholder of Decatur County for not less than four years prior to the date of his election, and he must post a five thousand dollar bond, with two or more good freehold sureties approved by the auditor, who also administers the oath of office. His work is under the direction of the state board of tax commissioners, and he may be removed by that board, after a hearing, for incompetency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office. (2)

The duties of the assessor are: To examine carefully the tax duplicates, to instruct and advise the township assessors, to review their returns, to assess omitted real and personal property, to appraise estates for inheritance taxes, to report to the state board any delinquencies of township assessors, (3) to examine public records, (4) and to set a value upon intangibles for taxation. (5) He is ex-officio member and president of the Decatur County board of review. (6)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (1) Acts 1891, ch. 99, sec. 112. | (5) Acts 1933; Burns 64-905. |
| (2) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1101. | (6) Acts 1919, 1920 spe. sess.; |
| (3) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1102. | Burns 64-1201. |
| (4) Ibid. | |

167. COUNTY ASSESSOR'S RECORD, 1891-1900. 1 vol.

Record of appointments of deputy assessors, showing date, name of appointee, and district. Indexed alph. by names of appointees.

Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. West bsmt. stg. rm.

168. RECORD OF MORTGAGES, 1891-93. 1 vol.

Record of mortgages on real estate, showing names of mortgagor, and mortgagee, description of property or real estate, date of mortgage, amount due, and amount paid. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagors and mortgagees. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. West bsmt. stg. rm.

Maps

169. DECATUR COUNTY, 1928. 1 map.

Communications map, showing various roads in county. Printed.

2 in. to 1 mi. 48 x 48. Assr. off.

XII. BOARD OF REVIEW

By virtue of an act of 1919, Decatur County has a board of review for the annual review of assessments and the equalization of valuation of real and personal property. The board is composed of the assessor, treasurer, and auditor, ex officio, and two freeholders of opposite political parties, appointed annually by the judge of the circuit court. The assessor is president and the auditor is secretary of the board. (1)

From 1881 to 1891 the duties of reviewing and equalizing tax assessments were performed by a county board of equalization consisting of the county commissioners and four freeholders appointed by the circuit judge. (2) The law of 1891 superseded this act and created the board of review, composed of the treasurer, assessor, and auditor. (3) The act of 1919 reestablished the board, adding the two freeholder appointments to its membership. (4) The inception date of this board in Decatur County is 1881.

It is the duty of the board to make changes in the valuation of property in the township or any taxing unit within the township, and to determine the amount to be added or deducted in order to make an equitable equalization of any particular tract or lot upon the complaint of the owner. If the board shall find the aggregate assessment too high, too low, or unequal, it may set aside the assessment of the whole county, or of any township taxing unit

therein, and order a new assessment. (5)

The board also makes a general review of assessment lists to discover omitted property and to correct errors in the lists. It assess the capital stock of corporations in the county, except those assessed by the state board of tax commissioners, such as railroad, telephone, and telegraph companies. (6)

The records are located in the auditor's office in the courthouse.

-
- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1201. | (4) Acts 1919; Burns, <i>ibid.</i> |
| 64-1205. | (5) <i>Ibid.</i> |
| (2) Acts 1881, ch. 96, sec. 129. | (6) <i>Ibid.</i> |
| (3) Acts 1891; ch. 99, sec. 114. | |

170. RECORD OF BOARD OF REVIEW, 1891--. 2 vols.

Record of board of review meetings, showing adoptions, date of session, proceedings, subjects discussed, names of members, time of adjournment, date of next meeting, and signatures of board members.

No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

XIII. BOARD OF TAX ADJUSTMENT

The board of tax adjustment of Decatur County was established by an act of legislature in 1933 and consisted of seven members.

By an act of 1937 the membership of the board was changed. One is a member of the county council, chosen by the council, one member is the mayor of the largest city in the county or any public official of the county appointed by the said mayor of the largest city of the county, one member of the county board of education selected by such board, and four freeholders of the county appointed by the judge of the circuit court. Not more than four members of such adjustment board can be members of the same political party. The board is empowered to serve for one year. (2)

It is the duty of the board to examine, and if it deems necessary, revise, change, or reduce, but not increase, any tax levies and any corresponding items of the budget on which the tax levies are based, and apportion the total of all of the levies so that the total levy on property within any municipal corporation for which the property therein is taxable, shall not exceed the total rate as provided by law. (3)

The records are located in the auditor's office in the courthouse.

(1) Acts 1933; Burns 64-304.

(2) Acts 1937, ch. 119, sec. 4.

(3) Acts 1933; Burns 64-304.

171. (RECORD OF BOARD OF TAX ADJUSTMENT), 1933--. In

same vol. as entry 1.

Record of board of tax adjustments, showing petitions drawn, description of handling transactions, adjustment of taxes, date of approval, and auditor's signature. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Aud. off.

XIV. BOARD OF FINANCE

By virtue of an act of 1907, the board of county commissioners of Decatur County constitutes the board of finance. The auditor serves as secretary. It may sue and be sued in its own name whenever necessary to accomplish the purpose intended by its creation. (1) The inception date of this board in Decatur County is 1907.

The board of finance has charge of and controls the funds of Decatur County. (2) Its functions are to select the banks to serve as depositories for county funds and to apportion the funds among such depositories. In lieu of depositing county funds in banks, the board may purchase United States Government bonds or other interest-bearing obligations of the United States Government or its instrumentalities. (3) The board receives monthly statements of county funds on deposit from the banks, (4) and may, as it sees fit, revoke the commission of any depository. (5)

The general assembly of 1935 repealed the act establishing this board, and in the same session in the Depository Act of 1935, reestablished the board of finance practically unaltered. The board has supervision of all public funds of the county, and the safekeeping and deposit thereof. (6)

All the records are located in the auditor's office in the courthouse.

(1) Acts 1907; Burns 61-606.

(2) Acts 1907; Burns 61-606.

(3) Acts 1907, 1932 spc. sess.;
Burns 61-610.

(4) Acts 1907, 1931; Burns 61-616.

(5) Acts 1907; Burns 61-613.

(6) Acts 1935; Burns, 1936 suppl.,
61-628.

172. RECORD COUNTY BOARD FINANCE, 1907--. 1 vol.

Record of county board of finance, showing proposals for depositories for a two year term, bank contract, security, and date. No index.

335 pp. 16 x 12 x 2.

XV. SCHOOL FUND BOARD

The county school fund board was created by an act of 1935. It consists of three members: the auditor and the clerk ex officio, and one member appointed by the judge of the circuit court for a two-year term. (1)

The duty of this board is to make all loans from the common school and the congressional township school funds to owners of real property secured by mortgage. This was formerly a duty of the auditor. The board must satisfy itself as to the value of real estate offered in the mortgage, the validity of the title, and whether it is encumbered. (2)

The inception date of this board in Decatur County is 1935.

(1) Acts 1935; Burns, 1936
suppl., 28-209.

(2) Acts 1865; 1935; Burns,
Ibid.

These records are to be surveyed and will appear in the final draft.

XVI. TREASURER

The treasurer is a constitutional officer, elected for a term of two years. No person is eligible to serve more than four years in any period of six years. (1) He is required to execute his official bond, in the penalty of not less than the amount of money which may come into his hands at any time during his term. (2) Prior to the Constitution of 1851 the office of treasurer was in existence by virtue of an act of 1817. (3) The inception date of this office in Decatur County is 1822, the organization date of the county.

The treasurer receives all moneys coming to Decatur County and deposits the same on the proper orders issued and attested by the auditor. (4) He keeps fee books and cash books. (5) He makes quarterly reports to the commissioner; (6) at the expiration of his term of office, he gives a sworn statement to the auditor, showing specifically the amount of fees collected, (7) and deposits with the auditor all orders redeemed. (8) He makes a monthly statement to the treasurer of state, (9) and collects all taxes. (10)

The laws of the state also place certain ex-officio duties upon the treasurer. He is a member of the board of review, (11) and has custody of county funds, although the depositories are chosen by the board of finance. (12)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) Const., art. 6,
sec. 2. | (7) Acts 1895, 1903, 1913;
Burns 49-1402. |
| (2) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852;
Acts 1865, 1919;
Burns 49-3101. | (8) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852;
Burns 49-3114. |
| (3) Acts 1817, ch. 17,
sec. 1. | (9) Acts 1859, 1861;
Burns 49-1813. |
| (4) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852;
Burns 49-3103. | (10) Acts 1919; Burns
64-1502. |
| (5) Acts 1895; Burns
49-1401. | (11) Acts 1919, 1920 spc.
sess.; Burns 64-1201. |
| (6) Acts 1895, 1913;
Burns 49-1403. | (12) Acts 1907, 1932 spc.
sess.; Burns 61-610. |

Tax Collections

173. TAX DUPLICATE, 1854--. 164 vols.

Record of tax assessments, showing name of taxpayer, date, description of real estate, valuation of land or lots, value of improvements, and total amount of taxes. Arr. alph. by names of tax payers. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 142 vols., 1854-1925, west bsmt. stg. rm.; 22 vols., 1926--, tr. off.

174. TAX DUPLICATE RECEIPTS, 1906--. 503 vols. 1916-30, missing.

Record of tax duplicate receipts, showing name of payer, amount paid, description of real estate, location, acreage, mortgage exemption value, amount of poll tax, amount of personal tax, file no., and treasurer's signature. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 3 x 10 x 1. 230 vols., 1906-16, west bsmt. stg. rm.; 273 vols., 1930--, tr. vt.

175. DELINQUENT TAX RECEIPTS, 1874--. 26 vols.

Record of delinquent tax receipts, showing date, amount delinquent, amount paid, balance, name of payer, and duplicate no. No index. Hdw. 750 pp. 18 x 12 x 6. 14 vols., 1854-1905, west bsmt. stg. rm.; 12 vols., 1906--, tr. off.

Tax Collections(continued)

176. TAX DUPLICATES, DELINQUENTS, CITY AND TOWNSHIPS,

1864--. 62 boxes.

Duplicate delinquent tax receipts, showing date, name of payer, amount paid, and receipt no. No index. 14 x 10 x 5. Tr. vt.

177. INSOLVENT TAX RECORD, 1884--. 2 vols.

Record of insolvent taxes, showing date, duplicate no., name of taxpayer, address, no. of poll, amount delinquent, and amount dropped from duplicate. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 1 vol., 1884-1912, west bsmt. stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1913--, tr. off.

Receipts and Disbursements

178. DAILY BALANCE BOOK, 1854--. 29 vols.

Record of daily balance, showing date, amount of deposit, amount disbursed, amount of balance, name of payee, and account charged. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 21 vols., 1854-1924, west bsmt. stg. rm.; 8 vols., 1925--, tr. off.

179. MONTHLY BALANCE BOOK, 1854--. 15 vols.

Record of monthly balance, showing date, amount received, amount disbursed, names of payer and payee, kind of fund, balance, and amount overdrawn. No index. Hdw. 240 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 14 vols., 1854-1932, west bsmt. stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1933--, tr. off.

180. TREASURER'S CASH BOOK, 1854--. 26 vols.

Record of cash receipts, showing date, name of payer, duplicate no., amount of current tax, amount of delinquent tax, total certificate

Receipts and Disbursements(continued)

of error, and remarks. No index. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.
20 vols., 1854-1919, west rm., bsmt.; 6 vols., 1920--, tr. off.

181. TREASURER'S REGISTER OF DISBURSEMENTS, 1848--.

13 vols. (1-4, and 9 vols. not numbered).

Record of disbursements from all funds, showing date, amount disbursed, warrant number, name of fund, and purpose. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 14 x 9 x 2. 9 vols., 1848-1918, west bsmt. rm.; 4 vols., 1919--, tr. off.

182. REGISTER OF WARRANTS AND DEPOSITORY, 1876--. 10 vols.

Record of warrants drawn on deposits, showing date, amount of deposit, name of account, number of warrant, amount, and name of depository. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 6 vols., 1876-1911, west bsmt. stg. rm.; 4 vols., 1912--, tr. off.

183. WARRANTS (Canceled), 1890--. 40 boxes (A-T, and 20 boxes not labeled).

Canceled warrants, showing fund number, name of payee, amount, purpose, and warrant number. Arr. alph. by names of funds. 14 x 10 x 5.
Tr. off.

Maps

184. DECATUR COUNTY, 1916. 1 map.

Political map of Decatur County, showing towns, cities, townships, and sections. Published at Greensburg, Indiana, by The Weekly Times. Blueprint. Scale, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. to 1 mi. 48 x 30. Tr. vt.

XVII. ELECTION BOARD

Board of Election Commission

By legislative enactment in 1889, the board of election commissioners was created. It consists of the clerk of the circuit court, and two person appointed by him, one from each of the two major political parties; each of whom is nominated by the chairman of the county central committee of the two political parties respectively. This board appointed annually and serves without pay. It is its duty to prepare and distribute ballots for the election of county officers. (1)

The board's duties: to print ballots; to receive potitions to place candidates' names on ballots; and to receive certificates of nominations by convention or primary election. (2)

Board of Canvassers

By an act of 1905, the legislature constituted the board of election commissioners a board of canvassers. They are required to canvass and estimate the certificates, poll lists and tally papers. (3) The durther duties of the board are: to tabulate the votes, record them in the poll books, and file them together with the tally papers and certificates, in the office of the clerk, (4) The board selects its own chairman, and the clerk of the circuit court acts as clerk of the board, (5) and the board declares the election winners by a statement of certification. (6)

PRIMARY ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

The primary election commissioners were provided for by an act of the legislature in 1915. They consist of the clerk of the circuit court, and two person appointed by him, one from each of the two major political parties; each of whom is nominated in writing by the chairman of the county central committee of the two political parties respectively. It is their duty to prepare and distribute the primary ballots and generally supervise the primary elections. (7) The canvass of the primary votes is done by the board of canvassers. (8)

-
- (1) Acts 1889; Burns 29-1002.
 - (2) Acts 1889, 1933; Burns 29-1003.
 - (3) Acts 1905, 1907; Burns 29-1401.
 - (4) Acts 1905; Burns 29-1404.

- (5) Acts 1905; Burns 29-1402.
- (6) Acts 1905; Burns 29-1405.
- (7) Acts 1915, 1917; Burns 29-504.
- (8) Acts 1915; Burns 29-560.

The records of this office are to be surveyed and will appear in the final draft.

XVIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION

The educational system of Indiana had its beginning back in 1818, and since then it has undergone several changes.

The legislature in 1818 provided for the appointment by the county commissioners of a superintendent of schools for each congressional township. (1)

By legislative enactment in 1824 the school system was administered by three township school trustees, who were elective. (2)

The school administrative system was changed by the legislature in 1833. By this new act the election of a school commissioner was proscribed. (3)

In 1852 the legislature provided that the township trustees should serve as a board of school trustees in each civil township. (4)

By legislative enactment in 1865 three school trustees were elected by the common council of each incorporated city and the board of trustees of each incorporated town to administer the school system in conjunction with the township trustees of each civil township. (5)

By an act of 1873 the county board of education was created. The board was comprised of the county superintendent of schools, the township trustees of the county, and the school trustees of each city and town of the county. (6)

The inception date of this board in Decatur County is 1873.

By legislative enactment in 1877 the membership of the board was changed to consist of the county superintendent of schools,

the township trustees, and the chairman of school trustees of each city and town. (7)

The duties of the board are to take care of the general needs of the schools, maintenance of school property, and purchase of furniture, books, maps, charts, and other supplies. (8) Its powers also include appointment of a county attendance officer upon nomination of the county superintendent. (9) The board may purchase text books from publishers and sell them to pupils at cost. (10)

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) Acts 1818, ch. 49, sec. 1. | (6) Acts 1875, ch. 25, sec. 8. |
| (2) Acts 1824, ch. 97, secs. 1,2. | (7) Acts 1873, 1877; Burns 28-801. |
| (3) Acts 1833, ch. 70, sec. 3. | (8) Ibid. |
| (4) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852, ch. 98, secs. 4, 8. | (9) Acts 1921, 1932 spec. sess.; Burns 28-501. |
| (5) Acts 1865, ch. 1, secs. 4, 5. | (10) Acts 1921; Burns 29-613. |

No records could be found.

XIX. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

In 1865 the legislature provided for a school examiner to be appointed by the county commissioners. (1)

By legislative enactment in 1873, the act of 1865 was amended, and the school examiner's title was changed to "county superintendent of schools." He was appointed by the township trustees to serve for a term of two years. (2)

In 1899 the legislature extended the term of office of the superintendent of schools to four years, and also provided that he be elected by the township trustees. The set also required that he post bond with the auditor to insure faithful performance of his duties as prescribed by law. (3) The inception date of this office in Decatur County is 1873.

The superintendent exercises general supervision of the schools of Decatur County. He visits each township institute once each school year and conducts teachers' county institutes. He carries out the orders of the state board of education and the state superintendent of public instruction. (4) He is required to make a report as to teacher's preparation, experience, and license before being hired by the school trustees. (5) He makes out the basis of apportionment of school revenues from the enumeration of pupils. (6) He receives statements for school aid relief from school and township trustees. (7) He is ex-officio member and president of the board of education. (8)

All the records are located in the superintendent's office.

-
- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) Acts 1865, ch. 1, sec. 33 | (5) Acts 1927, 1933; Burns |
| (2) Acts 1873, ch. 25, sec. 2. | 28-4309. |
| (3) Acts 1899, 1911, 1913; Burns | (6) Acts 1865; Burns 28-715. |
| 28-702. | (7) Acts 1933; Burns 28-903. |
| (4) Acts 1899; Burns 28-704. | (8) Acts 1873, 1877; Burns 28-801. |

Activities and Reports

185. COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S RECORD, 1881--. 3 vols. .

(2-4).

Record of county schools, showing date, name of teacher or employee, amount of salary, kind of school activities, names of graduates, and date of graduation. Indexed alph. by names of employees.

Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

186. EXPENSE ACCOUNTS, 1846--. 9 file drawers.

Record of expenses, showing date, item of expense, and amount.

Arr. alph. by expense items. 24 x 14 x 10.

XX. HEALTH OFFICER

By legislative enactment in 1881, a county board of health was established and was required to elect a secretary who acted as the health officer for each town and city, and the county. (1)

In 1891 the legislature amended the act of 1881 and enlarged the duties of the health officer, who acted through the board of health. (2)

The health commissioner was provided for by an act of the legislature in 1909, and in the same act a repeal clause repealed the act creating the county board of health. The health commissioner is elected by the county commissioners to serve for a four-year term. (3) The health commissioner must be a licensed physician. (4) The inception date of the records of this office in Decatur County is 1881.

By an act of 1935 the title of county health commissioner was changed to county health officer, who is appointed by the county commissioner with the approval of the state board of health, to serve four years. The county health officer must be legally qualified to practice medicine, suitably trained in sanitary science, and his qualifications must be satisfactory to the state board of health. He is required to enforce the health laws of the state and enforce all the rules of the state board of health. (5)

It is the duty of the health officer to enforce the health laws; to record and report vital statistics, such as births, deaths,

and marriages; to make sanitary inspections of all public and private buildings in regard to sources of disease; to establish quarantine and take all reasonable means to protect the public health; to close schools and churches; and to prohibit public assemblies to prevent epidemics. (6)

All records are located in C. A. Porter's residence, Westport, Indiana.

-
- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) 1881 Rev. Stat., sec. 4993. | (5) Acts 1935; Burns, 1936 suppl., |
| (2) Acts 1891, ch. 15, sec. 8. | 35-118. |
| (3) Acts 1891, 1909; Burns | (6) Acts 1891, 1909; Burns |
| 35-108. | 35-111. |
| (4) Acts 1891, 1909; Burns 35-110. | |

Vital Statistics

187. BIRTH RECORD, 1887--. 11 vols.

Record of births, showing date of birth, name of child, weight, sex, color, names and ages of parents, and name of physician. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 16 x 12 x 1.

For prior records, see entry 191.

188. MARRIAGES, 1887--. 5 vols.

Record of marriages, showing date, time, names of bride and groom, age, name and address of parents, place of marriage, and name of party performing ceremony. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 16 x 12 x 1.

For prior records, see entries 19-20, 191.

189. CONTAGIOUS DISEASES, 1887--. 3 vols.

Record of contagious diseases, showing date reported, name of patient, age, sex, address, nature of disease, by whom reported, date quarantine established, length of quarantine, name of attending physician,

Vital Statistics (continued)

preventive measures, and date released. No index. Hdw.

Condition fair. 400 pp. 13 x 14 x 3.

For prior records, see entry 191.

190. DEATH RECORDS, 1887--. 6 vols.

Record of deaths, showing date, time, name and address of deceased, color, age, sex, cause of death, names of physician, and undertaker, and date and place of burial. No index. Hdw. Condition fair.

150 pp. 16 x 12 x 1.

For prior records, see entry 191.

191. MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, DEATHS, CONTAGIOUS DISEASE, COMBINED
RECORD, 1882-87. 1 vol.

Record of births, deaths, marriages, and contagious diseases, showing date and place of birth, name of child, sex, color, name and address of parents, and name of physician; deaths, showing date, name and address of deceased, age, sex, color, cause of death, name of undertaker, and date and place of burial; marriages, showing date, names and addresses of bride and groom, age, color, name and address of parents, and name of party performing ceremony; contagious diseases, showing date, by whom reported, name and address of patient, age, sex, color, nature of disease, date quarantine established, preventive measures, and date released.

No index. Hdw. Condition fair. 150 pp. 16 x 12 x 1.

For subsequent records, see entries 187, 189, and 190.

XXI. BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE

The board of public welfare of Decatur County, created in 1936 by an act of the legislature, consists of five persons having a recognized interest in and knowledge of the problems of public welfare. The board members are appointed by the judge of the circuit court; at least two members must be women and not more than three members may be adherents of any one political party. (1)

Subject to the rules and regulations of the state department of public welfare, the board is charged with the administration of assistance to dependent children in their own homes, old age assistance, services and assistance to persons otherwise handicapped, the care and treatment of dependent, neglected, and handicapped children, children in danger of becoming delinquent, and such other welfare activities as may be delegated to it by the state department of public welfare, under the provisions of the act, including services connected with assistance to the blind. (2)

The director, who is appointed by the board of public welfare of Decatur County under the supervision of the circuit court, performs the functions of probation officer and agent of the court. (3)

All jurisdiction vested in county boards pertaining to welfare work and transferred to the board of public welfare upon its organization in 1936. (4)

All the records are located in the welfare vault in the courthouse.

-
- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Acts 1936 spc. sess.; Burns, 1936 suppl., 52-1118. | (3) Acts 1936 spc. sess.; Burns, 1936 suppl., 52-1119, 52-1120. |
| (2) Acts 1936 spc. sess.; Burns, 1936 suppl., 52-1120. | (4) Acts 1936 spc. sess.; Burns, 1936 suppl., 52-1408. |

192. MINUTE BOOK, 1936--. 1 vol.

Record of business transactions, showing date, minutes of meetings, applications for old age assistance, name, age, and address of applicant, kind and number of application, amount, date, and if granted, denied, or withdrawn. Indexed alph. by names of applicants.

Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 8 x 3. Wfr. off.

193. REGISTER OF APPLICATIONS, 1936--. 1 vol.

Register of applications for old age assistance, showing date reported, name of applicant, amount allowed, date effective, certificate number, or reason denied. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 14 x 6 x 2. Wfr. off.

194. APPLICATION NUMBER, 1936--. 1 file drawer.

Applications acted on for old age assistance, showing date, case number, name and address of applicant, date granted, denied, or withdrawn, and approval of board. Indexed alph. by names of applicants. 24 x 14 x 12. Wfr. off.

195. APPLICATION FOR OLD AGE ASSISTANCE, 1936--. 3 file drawers.

Applications for old age pensions, showing date, name, age, and address of applicant, name of native country, family status, and reason for applying for assistance. Indexed alph. by names of

applicants. 24 x 12 x 12. Wfr. off.

196. ACTION TAKEN BY DIRECTORS AND THE BOARDS APPROVAL OR
DISAPPROVAL, 1936--.. 1 vol..

Record of decisions on approval and disapproval of applications for assistance, showing date, name and address of applicant, recommendation of director investigating case, date approved or rejected, serial no., and amount of award. No index. Hdw. 25 pp. 16 x 10 x 1. Wfr. off.

197. RECORD OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN AGED PERSONS, 1936--. 2
vols.

Record of persons receiving old age pensions, showing date effective, name and address of pensioner, certificate no., amount of award, total at end of month, total death benefit, and signature of auditor. Arr. by serial nos. Hdw. 300 pp. 14 x 8 x 2. Wfr. off.

198. REGISTER OF CLAIMS FILED AND APPROVED AND WARRANTS ISSUED,
1936--. 1 vol.

Record of warrants covering expenses, showing date, amount, warrant no., kind of expense, and monthly balance. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 14 x 10 x 2. Wfr. off.

199. RECEIPT BOOK, 1936--. 1 vol.

Record of receipts for old age assistance, showing date, receipt no., amount, name of party, and serial no. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 10 x 1. Wfr. off.

200. WELFARE INFORMATION, 1936--. 1 file drawer.

Correspondence from other counties, requesting information on persons applying for assistance, showing date, name, age, and address of party, date of birth, how long a resident, family status, and means of living. No index. 30 x 14 x 10. Wfr. off.

XXII. SURVEYOR

The surveyor is a constitutional officer, elected for a term of two years without restriction on reelection. (1) He must give bond in a sum fixed by the board of county commissioners. (2) Prior to the Constitution of 1851 the office of surveyor was in existence by virtue of an act of 1831. (3) The inception date of this office in Decatur County is 1822.

The surveyor has charge, under direction of the county commissioners, of all surveying and civil engineering work of the county, including the preparation of plans and specifications for, and supervision of, the construction of all bridges, turnpikes or other roads, ditches, drains, and levies. (4) He also has charge of the repair and maintenance of county highways, (5) unless the county commissioners may employ the surveyor to serve as highway supervisor. (7)

For private parties, he takes acknowledgments of mortgages and deeds for the conveyance of real estate, (8) and, upon request, establishes lines and corners of lands and lots. (9)

The surveyor may employ deputy surveyors to assist in performing the engineering duties of the office. (10)

All the records are located in the west basement storage room in the courthouse.

-
- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) Const., art. 6, sec. 2; 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3301. | (7) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1110. |
| (2) Acts 1913; Burns 49-3302. | (8) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1857; Burns 49-3317. |
| (3) Rev. Laws 1831, ch. 102, sec. 1. | (9) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1875; Burns 49-3311. |
| (4) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1911; Burns 49-3309. | (10) Acts 1891, 1899; Burns 49-3306. |
| (5) Acts 1935; Burns 36-1101. | |
| (6) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1113. | |

201. DRAINAGE RECORD, 1882-97. 1 vol.

Record of property owners benefited by ditching and drainage, showing date, name of owner, location and description of property, and signature of surveyor. 1 Indexed alph. by names of owners. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

XXIII. HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR

In pioneer times the roads were maintained by the local authorities. The citizens usually worked out their road taxes by giving a certain number of days labor, furnishing their own teams. The township road superintendent had charge of the work performed. This system prevailed for nearly a half a century.

In 1879 the legislature constituted the county commissioners a board of turnpike directors, each serving as supervisor in his own district. (1) In 1913 the county highways were placed in charge of a superintendent of highways, who was appointed by the county commissioners for a term of two years. (2) Some records bear his title. This office was abolished in 1933, (3) and the powers and duties conferred on the surveyor. (4)

In order to provide for necessary supervision of highways in counties warranting more attention than the surveyor can give, the board of county commissioners has the right to appoint, at its option, a highway supervisor whose term of office is discretionary with the board of county commissioners. (5) The board of commissioners of Decatur County has appointed a highway supervisor,

The inception date of this office in Decatur County is 1933.

The highway supervisor oversees the maintenance and repair of all highways, bridges, and culverts of the county, (6) and has authority to fix the limits of loads carried over them. (7) He must attend the annual road school at Purdue University. (8)

All the records of this office are located in the highway supervisor's office in the courthouse.

-
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) Acts 1879, ch. 115, sec. 1. | (5) Acts 1935; Burns 36-1110. |
| (2) Acts 1913, ch. 330, sec. 1. | (6) Acts 1935; Burns 36-1103. |
| (3) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1113. | (7) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1102. |
| (4) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1101. | (8) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1110. |

202. HIGHWAY LEDGER, 1914--. 18 vols. (1-18).

Record of highway expenditures for construction of roads and bridges, showing date, names of contractor, and of employees, amount and kind of material purchased, name of firm, kind of labor performed, price per hour, name and no. of district, warrant and report nos., and total expenditures. Arr. chron. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

Maps

203. DECATUR COUNTY, not dated. 1 map.

Communications map, showing roads, twps., farms, secs., and towns. Published at Greensburg, Ind. Printed, black and white. Scale, 1" to 1 mile. 48 x 48.

XXIV. AGRICULTURAL AGENT

The office of agricultural agent was created by the legislature in 1913. This act provided that an agent should be appointed upon petition by the residents of the county. (1) The inception date of this office in Decatur County is 1913.

By legislative enactment in 1937 the office of agricultural agent was created for every Indiana county. The agricultural agent is appointed by the director of agricultural extension service of Purdue University, subject to the approval of a state board, entitled county agricultural agents board. The qualifications of the agricultural agent are prescribed by the board. (2)

The county council is required to appropriate not less than one thousand dollars annually to be used in paying office help, expenses of the agent, mileage, rent, or other incidentals. The salary of the agricultural agent is paid by the state through Purdue University.

The duties of the agricultural agent, under the supervision of Purdue University, are: To cooperate with movements for the advancement of agricultural and country life, with farmers' institutes, farmers' clubs, and other rural and civic organizations; to conduct practical farm demonstrations, boys' and girls' clubs and contest work; to give advice to farmers on practical problems; to aid the superintendent of schools and teachers of the county in giving practical education in agriculture and domestic science. (2)

By an act of 1931, the office of home demonstration agent, whose work is supplemental to that of the agricultural agent, was authorized upon petition to the county council by the taxpayers of the county. (3)

(1) Acts 1913, 1923, 1927;
Burns 28-4911.

(2) Acts 1937, ch. 224, sec. 1.
(3) Acts 1931, Burns 28-5627.

Reports

204. LEDGER, 1920--. 3 vols.

Record of 4-H Clubs activities, showing date, names of members, vocational training, method of recognition, and merit award. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 10 x 6 x 1. Agr. agt. off.; Post Off. Bldg., Greensburg, Ind.

205. COUNTY AGENT RECORD, 1934--. 1 vol.

Record of miscellaneous items of information requested by farmers, showing date, name of farmer, kind of information requested and granted. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 12 x 8 x 2. Agr. agt. off., Post Off. Bldg., Greensburg, Ind.

206. SOIL CONSERVATION, 1934--. 4 file drawers.

Record of operators, owners, and tenants of farms, showing date, name of party and twp., location, kind of crop, conditions, number of acres, amount requested for soil conservation, amount allowed, and price paid. Indexed alph. by names of twps. Agr. agt. off., Post Off. Bldg., Greensburg, Ind.

207. LETTERS, 1934--. 4 file drawers.

Correspondence pertaining to applications for soil conservation

payments, showing date, description of farm, and amount of payments. Arr. chron. 24 x 12 x 12. Agr. agt. off., Post Off. Bldg., Greensburg, Ind.

208. ENROLLMENT RECORD, 4-H CLUB GIRLS, Jan. 1-Nov. 1, 1936.

1 vol.

Record of enrollment of 4-H Club girls, showing date, name and age; vocational training; name of leader; name of twp., county, and town; and record of activities. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 10 x 6 x 1. Home Demonstration Agt. off., 3rd. floor Post Off. Bldg., Greensburg, Ind.

209. RECREATION PROGRAMS, Jan. 1-Nov. 1, 1936. 1 file drawer. Papers pertaining to recreational activities, showing date, names, addresses, and ages of children; number participating, kind of recreation, place, time, name of director, and prize awarded. No index. 24 x 12 x 12. Home Demonstration Agt. off., 3rd floor Post Off. Bldg., Greensburg, Ind.

210. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, HOME DEMONSTRATION, MINUTE BOOK,

Jan. 1-Nov. 1, 1936. 3 vols.

Record of home demonstrator's activities, showing date, nature of work to be done, accomplishments, homes visited, purpose, and enrollment of girls in 4-H Clubs. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 10 x 6 x 1. Home Demonstration Agt. off., 3rd. floor Post Off. Bldg., Greensburg, Ind.

211. HOME MANAGEMENT, Jan. 1-Nov. 1, 1936. 1 file drawer.

Papers pertaining to domestic training for children, showing date,

name and age of child, grade made in school and in training, cooking technique, equipment needed, and furnishings of home. No index. 24 x 12 x 12. Home Demonstration Agt. off., 3rd. floor Post Off., Bldg., Greensburg, Ind.

212. CAN FOOD, Jan. 1-Nov. 1, 1936. 1 file drawer. Reports of canning school demonstrations, showing date of lessons, names and ages of children, work performed, amount, cost of production, and grades made by scholars. No index. 24 x 12 x 12. Home Demonstration Agt. off., 3rd. floor Post Off., Bldg., Greensburg, Ind.

213. CLOTHING, Jan. 1- Nov. 1, 1936. 1 file drawer. Reports on clothing activities, showing date, names and ages of children, kind and number of articles made, date finished, time taken to complete article, cost of production, date demonstrated, and grades made by scholars. No index. 24 x 12 x 12. Home Demonstration Agt. off., 3rd. floor Post Off. Bldg., Greensburg, Ind.

